



OLLSCOIL NA
GAILLIMHE
UNIVERSITY
OF GALWAY

An tIonad Dlí & Beartais Míchumais
Centre for Disability Law & Policy

Disabled Activism in an Age of Far-Right Resurgence

16th International Disability Law Summer School
16 - 18 June 2025



16th International Disability Law Summer School

16-18 June 2025

Introduction to the 2025 Programme

The Centre for Disability Law and Policy (CDLP) at University of Galway is pleased to welcome our attendees to the 16th International Disability Law Summer School. This year's event will again follow a hybrid approach, enabling speakers and delegates to participate in-person or online.

The rise of far-right politics in recent years has led to a backsliding across the globe in democratic values, rule of law principles and rights protection. Authoritarian policies, war and conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic have disproportionately impacted disabled people, and particularly people with intersecting marginalised identities. To address these challenges, we need to ask ourselves how we can make space for civil society and hold governments accountable

The 16th International Disability Law Summer School will explore the challenges posed by far-right politics and we will hear from experts on disabled activism, including direct action, strategic litigation and social and political advocacy. We will discuss the uses and limits of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and the range of articles engaged by far-right resurgence, including articles 6, 8, 13 and 29. We will ask whether human rights are a useful tool for enacting change or whether alternative approaches may be more effective in achieving justice and freedom for disabled people.

Cover artwork by Grace Barnes.



Table of Contents

Programme	2
Biographies	6
Important Information	20
Venue Map	21
Discord	22
Craftivism	26
About the CDLP	28
LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law & Policy	30
Tourist Information	32

Day 1: Monday 16 June

About Today

Day one will provide participants with an introduction to the resurgence of far-right politics and disability activism in the context of human rights. The day will provide the opportunity for participants to consider both the advantages and limits of using the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in disability rights activism.

8:15 - 9:15	Registration (in-person)
9:15 - 9:25	Welcome to the University Alma McCarthy, College of Business, Public Policy and Law, University of Galway
9:25 - 9:40	Welcome to the Centre for Disability Law and Policy Eilionóir Flynn, CDLP, University of Galway
9:40 - 9:55	Introduction to Summer School Grace Barnes, CDLP, University of Galway
9:55 - 10:10	Craftivism at Summer School Aideen Quirke, Independent Curator and Arts Worker
10:10 - 10:45	Keynote Presentation Talila A. Lewis, Freedom Mapping
10:45 - 11:00	Response to Keynote Presentation Alberto Vásquez Encalada, Mad Thinking
11:00 - 11:15	Questions and Answers
11:15 - 11:30	Tea and Coffee Break
11:30 - 13:15	Using the CRPD in Disability Rights Activism
Chair:	Charles O'Mahony, School of Law, University of Galway
Panellists:	Akriti Mehta, Mad Thinking and London School of Economics and Political Science Mohammad Rejaul Karim Siddiquee, Disability Inclusive Justice and Legal Aid Association (DIJLA) Sofia Minieri, Women Enabled International Robin Metcalfe, University of British Columbia
	Questions and Answers
13:15 - 14:15	Lunch

14:15 - 16:15	Limits of the Human Rights Approach against Far-Right Movements
Chair:	Ishani Ida Cordeiro, Women Enabled International
Panellists:	Dom Kelly, New Disabled South Vijay Kishor Tiwari, West Bengal National University of Juridical Sciences Jo-Ann Garnier, Disability Rights Fund James Forbes, Childvision
	Questions and Answers
16:30 - 17:45	Poster Presentation Session (in-person)

WiFi - Eduroam

Remember to check your badge for your individual login details

#16thDSS

Day 2: Tuesday 17 June

About Today

Day two will focus on challenges which disabled people face as a result of the resurgence of far-right politics. Activists and researchers will present on racialised and gendered issues caused by the pushback against identity politics, on the resurgence of eugenic ideologies and on the ableist policies and practices implemented in response to the COVID pandemic.

8:15 - 9:00

Registration

9:00 - 11:00

Race and Gender: Addressing Systematic Exclusion and Pushback against Identity Politics

Chair:

Áine Sperrin, Trilateral Research

Panellists:

Samaneh Shabani, UN Spotlight Initiative
 María Laura Serra, University of Valladolid
 Albright Alitsi, People Liberation Party and Lola Crotchet Foundation
 Agnieszka Król, Jagiellonian University

Questions and Answers

11:00 - 11:15

Tea and Coffee Break

11:15 - 13:15

The New Era of Eugenics

Chair:

Ellen Murray, Transgender NI

Panellists:

Marius Markuckas, Vytautas Magnus University
 Alannah Uí Gheargáin, Independent Activist
 Linda Steele, University of Technology Sydney
 Rachel Cassen, Leap and Krista Carr & Kurt Goddard, Inclusion Canada

Questions and Answers

13:15 - 14:15

Lunch

14:15 - 16:15

Challenges Exacerbated by COVID-19

Panellists:

Sarabajaya Kumar, University College London
 Carmen Kealy, University of Galway
 April Parker, Former Research Assistant CDLP
 Yoshiko Miwa, Ritsumeikan University

Questions and Answers

17:30 - 20.00

BBQ at the SULT, University of Galway (H91 RTR6) (in-person)

Day 3: Wednesday 18 June

5

About Today

Day three will provide the opportunity for participants to engage in group discussions on pushing back against far-right politics. Break-out rooms will facilitate conversations about direct action/social advocacy, political activism, shadow reporting and strategic litigation. Groups will feed back their ideas to the rest of the summer school participants. In the afternoon, panellists will present on disability rights in the context of war and conflict and finally consider some key future challenges.

8:15 - 9:00 **Registration**

9:00 - 11:00 **Discussion Groups**
(in person attendees to choose a group and sign up on Monday)

Topics/Groups: 1. Direct Action/Social Advocacy
 2. Political Activism
 3. Shadow Reporting
 4. Strategic Litigation
 5. Online Group

10:15 - 11:00 **Feedback from the breakout group discussions**

Chair: János Fiala-Butora, CDLP, University of Galway

11:00 - 11:15 **Tea and Coffee Break**

11:15 - 13:15 **Disability Rights in times of War and Conflict**

Panellists: Yuliia Sachuk, Fight for Right
 Anna Kirey, Swedish Federation for Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual,
 Transgender, Queer and Intersex Rights (RFSL)
 Precious Jose Baroy, University of the Philippines
 Dean Buckley, Independent Journalist

Questions and Answers

13:15 - 14:15 **Lunch**

14:15 - 16:00 **Current Challenges and Future Directions**

Chair: Abigail Rekas, School of Law, University of Galway

Panellists: Mary Keogh, CBM Global Disability Inclusion and
 Eileen Blisken, Independent Conflict and Dispute
 Resolution Practitioner
 Alberto Vásquez Encalada, Mad Thinking
 Catherine Townsend, Ford Foundation
 Valerie Karr, University of Massachusetts Boston

Questions and Answers

16:15 - 16:30 **Closing Remarks & Award of Certificates**
 Caroline McGregor, Institute for Lifecourse and Society,
 University of Galway

PROGRAMME

Albright Alitsi

Albright Alitsi is a dedicated advocate for social transformation, education, and ethical leadership. As the Founder of Lola Crochet Foundation and Deputy Youth Leader in NARC Kenya, she actively engages in empowering communities through inclusive arts-based interventions. Her work focuses on addressing Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights (SRHR) and Gender-Based Violence (GBV) using innovative platforms such as crocheting, interactive theatre, and digital storytelling. With expertise in leadership, strategic communication, and policy advocacy, Albright has contributed to structured initiatives like the YFM Dissemination and Advocacy Strategy. Her commitment to equity and accessibility drives efforts to empower persons with disabilities and foster youth engagement in governance. Through creativity, education, and activism, Albright envisions a future where marginalized voices are amplified, ethical leadership thrives, and sustainable change is realized.



Grace Barnes

Grace Barnes is a PhD researcher at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, University of Galway. She holds a first-class law degree from the University of Bristol, UK and a master's degree in Gender and International Relations. Grace previously worked in family law and volunteered as a legal advisor at a law clinic. Her PhD research focuses on the operation of disability, gender and sexual stereotypes in the European Court of Human Rights and how this shapes disabled women's understandings of their own identities. Her research is currently funded through a Hardiman scholarship.



Precious Jose "Gift" Baroy

Precious Jose "Gift" Baroy is a law student at the University of the Philippines College of Law and a passionate advocate for neurodiversity and disability inclusion. Diagnosed with ASD and ADHD as an adult, Gift has navigated significant challenges, including an experience with psychosis that led to systemic online bullying, vilification, and harassment. These experiences fueled his journey as a self-advocate, inspiring his commitment to dismantling systemic barriers faced by individuals with disabilities, particularly those with neurodevelopmental conditions.



Gift's advocacy focuses on leveraging international law to protect and empower marginalized communities. His presentation at the 16th International Summer School for Disability Law will explore how violations of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) may constitute crimes against humanity under the Rome Statute. He will also examine asylum as a legal remedy, offering insights into how international humanitarian law can provide redress for individuals with disabilities who have faced abuse and discrimination. Gift's work bridges personal experience with legal scholarship, advocating for a more inclusive and just world.

Eileen Blishen

Eileen Blishen is an independent conflict and dispute resolution practitioner. In her practice, she works with a wide variety of organisations and assists them in dealing with disputes. She also works with clients to help them design systems which will enable the organisation to deal with issues in a healthier and more positive way. Eileen is an accredited mediator and has mediated disputes all over the island of Ireland. Eileen practiced as a barrister in Ireland for several years, and has lectured on a master's programme in Dispute Resolution. In addition to her degree of Barrister-at-Law, Eileen holds a master's degree in human Rights Law from Queen's University in Belfast, and a Postgraduate Diploma in Conflict & Dispute Resolution Studies from Trinity College in Dublin.



Dean Buckley

Dean Buckley is an independent journalist and researcher of fringe belief from Cahir, Co. Tipperary. He writes about local, national and international affairs on his blog, Left in the Lurch. He is a member of the National Union of Journalists and deeply resents that his lifelong interest in conspiracy theories now qualifies him as a reporter and commentator on mainstream news and politics.



János Fiala-Butora

János is a Lecturer at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, University of Galway. János received his law degree from Comenius University (Slovakia), and also holds an LLM in International Human Rights Law (2004) from Central European University (CEU), and an SJD from Harvard Law School (2016), where his doctoral research focused on international human rights standards relating to legal capacity of persons with disabilities. János is a human rights attorney with extensive experience in representing persons with disabilities, ethnic minorities, and persons deprived of their liberty before the European Court of Human Rights, the UN Committee on the Right of Persons with Disabilities and other international bodies, including some high profile judgments in the area of freedom from torture, legal capacity and access to education. He also actively consults with governments on their human rights laws and policies, and has advised a number of Council of Europe and UN bodies.



Krista Carr

Krista Carr is a long-time advocate in the inclusion movement. She is the Executive Vice President (CEO) of Inclusion Canada, one of Canada's 10 largest charitable organizations. Inclusion Canada is a national federation of 300 local and 13 Provincial/Territorial Associations working on behalf of approximately 1 million Canadians with a developmental disability and their families. Krista has over 25 years of experience in the non-profit sector as a champion of inclusion. Before joining Inclusion Canada, she was the Executive Director of the New Brunswick Association for Community Living (NBACL), a leading provincial non-profit organization that works with people with an intellectual disability and their families to accomplish the mission of full inclusion across the lifespan. In her current role, Krista is responsible for leading the Inclusion Canada National organization, the Inclusion Canada Foundation and Inclusive Education Canada (IEC). In addition to her extensive work portfolio, Krista sits on a number of provincial and national disability-related boards and committees. She was a member of the COVID Disability Advisory Group and was Chair of the Ministerial Disability Advisory Group, established by the honourable Carla Qualtrough, Minister of Employment, Workforce Development and Disability Inclusion. Krista offers a unique perspective on disability-related supports and services, both nationally and internationally. Krista is a graduate of the University of New Brunswick (UNB) where she earned a Bachelor's in Business Administration (BBA) and several diplomas in Human Resources and Management from UNB's College of Extended Learning. She is fluently bilingual and works on behalf of CACL's federation in both French and English. She currently resides in New Brunswick with her husband and two daughters.



Rachel Cassen

Rachel is the Co- Founder and Director of Leap. Leap is a family-led, non-profit organisation that assists families of children with disabilities to take action for an inclusive life. Rachel believes that families are foundational in their capacity to pursue inclusive lives and drive social change. Rachel is also Chairperson of the Water Street Association a place-based initiative to support Inclusive Neighbourhoods. Rachel believes that it is through our connections in community that change happens and that our relationships with each other pave the way for us to imagine, experience and enjoy a life rich in opportunity and personal growth.



James Forbes

A social care worker by profession, James is Director of Social Care in ChildVision, Ireland's national charity working with children and young people with blindness and vision impairment, many of whom experience additional disabilities. A tutor with Trinity College Dublin's School of Social Work and Social Policy, he has also taught for several years on the Technological University of Dublin's social care degree programmes and is a former two-term board member of CORU, Ireland's multi-profession regulator. James holds an MA (Ed) from the University of Worcester, an MSc from Trinity College and both an LLM and PhD from Dublin City University, his work in these latter areas focusing on a civic republican reading of the UNCRPD.



Jo-Ann Garnier

Jo-Ann Garnier is a committed human rights advocate and a defender of the rights of persons with disabilities in Haiti. She began her journey in social justice through early volunteer work at a rehabilitation center for women and children. Trained in non-violence and mediation by the Martin Luther King Jr. Center in Atlanta, she continues to apply these principles throughout her advocacy. Jo-Ann is a founding member of enpak, a Haitian organization promoting the rights of children, women, and persons with disabilities, and co-founder of Femmes en Démocratie - Vital Voices Haiti, which supports women's civic and political leadership. She also serves as a Senior Program Officer for the Disability Rights Fund. Although trained in law, she works at the grassroots level to combat exclusion, violence, and inequality. Recognized as a Human Rights Hero by the U.S. Embassy in Haiti, she was later honored by Haiti's Ministry for the Status of Women.



Kurt Goddard

Kurt (he/him) is based in Fredericton, New Brunswick, on the ancestral lands of the Wolastoqiyik (Maliseet) and Mi'kmaq peoples. As the Executive Director of Legal & Public Affairs at Inclusion Canada, Kurt combines his formidable expertise as a practicing lawyer, dedicated disability rights advocate, and former political staffer. His in-depth knowledge of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities underpins his work in legal advocacy, public affairs, and community engagement. A career highlight for Kurt was contributing to the advocacy efforts that laid the groundwork for Canada's Disability Inclusion Action Plan. Outside the professional sphere, Kurt is a passionate trail runner with the Fredericton Trail Runners (FTR), founder of the Devin Deer ad hoc running group, regular at the Fredericton Boxing Club (FBC), and a cross-country skiing enthusiast during winter months.



Valerie Karr

Dr. Valerie Karr has research expertise in inclusive development, education, human rights, and disability rights, with a strong track record in rights-based advocacy. Her research focuses on the inclusion of marginalized populations in development, particularly within the framework of the Sustainable Development Goals and the "No One Left Behind" agenda. Dr. Karr's current work is on disability-inclusive development in low-income and conflict-affected regions. She has led dozens of studies evaluating how international aid targets vulnerable populations and with what outcomes. Her transdisciplinary expertise spans political science, public policy, international development, and education. Dr. Karr collaborates with governments, schools, civil society organizations, and multilateral agencies including the United Nations, World Bank, and USAID. A published author and curriculum developer, she also teaches and supervises research on systemic change, epistemic justice, research and evaluation, and innovative policy solutions for inclusive development.



Carmen Kealy

Dr Carmen Kealy is a Postdoctoral Researcher with the HPRC at the University of Galway, Ireland. She has worked on various collaborative projects including the Mind the Gap report: Research on barriers to the realisation of rights of children with disabilities in Ireland (Centre for Disability Law and Policy in the University of Galway- funded by Ombudsman for Children) and Crisis Coping: Living and Learning through COVID-19 (UCFRC and School of Education at University of Galway-funded by HRB and IRC). In 2022, Carmen was awarded one of 17 COVID-19 Global fellowships from the Society for Research on Adolescence. Since September 2023, she leads the Atlantic Futures project 'Digital Mental Health Supports' for Young People', which is funded by the Higher Education Authority Shared Island fund and overseen by Prof. Barry and Prof Donohue (University of Galway, Ireland) as well as Prof Mulvenna and Prof O' Neill (Ulster University, NI).



Dom Kelly

Dom Kelly is the Co-Founder, President & CEO of New Disabled South, a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization, and New Disabled South Rising, its 501(c)(4) arm. Dom is one of a set of triplets with cerebral palsy and a lifelong disability advocate. He received a Master of Science in Nonprofit Leadership degree from the University of Pennsylvania's School of Social Policy and Practice. Dom is a part of the 2025 global cohort of Atlantic Fellows for Health Equity, was chosen as a 2024 Rockwood National Leading From the Inside Out Yearlong Fellow, and was one of ten winners of The J.M. Kaplan Fund's 2023 Innovation Prize. He currently lives in Atlanta, Georgia with his wife Catie and their daughter Mahalia.



Mary Keogh

Mary Keogh is the Chair of the International Disability Development Consortium, is a network of 35 civil society organisations, civil society networks and organisations of persons with disabilities coming together around a common objective: promoting inclusive international development and humanitarian action. The IDDC is powered by its membership and active task groups which focus on sectoral and thematic areas of which climate action is one. Mary's professional background is in advocacy and in her day job she is Advocacy Director with CBM Global Disability Inclusion. Mary holds a PhD in Law and Public Policy and her research interests include gender, intersectionality and climate. She is also an accredited mediator.



Anna Kirey

Anna Kirey (she/her) is a feminist activist currently working with RFSL, a Swedish LGBTQ+ organization, to support LGBTQ+ communities in Eastern Europe, with focus on advocacy to advance anti-hate crime legislation and accessible, quick and transparent legal gender recognition process in Ukraine. She is also completing a Master's degree in Gendering Practices at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. She serves on a supervisory board of a feminist fund Mama Cash.



In addition to her professional and academic roles, Anna is actively involved in several online initiatives in both Ukraine and Sweden that advance neurodiversity. She, her partner Yana, and their child Mika are all neurodiverse. The family lives in Gothenburg together with Anna's parents, who are refugees from southern Ukraine.

Agnieszka Król

Agnieszka Król, Ph.D. - sociologist based in Krakow, Poland. Her academic interests revolve around disability studies, social inequalities and gender and sexuality studies. Her doctoral dissertation at Jagiellonian University tackled stratified reproduction and negotiating and subverting ableist norms by women with disabilities in Poland. She is an author of two books: *Reprodukcja a reżimy sprawności* (2022) [Reproduction and ableist regimes. On motherhood, childlessness, and independent living of women with disabilities in Poland] as well as *Rodziny z wyboru w Polsce* (2017) [Families of choice in Poland] on queer kinship. She has engaged with social justice organizing including on disability, feminist, queer and refugee rights both locally and internationally. For almost five years she worked with CREA within the disability portfolio and co-anchored the Disability Sexuality and Rights Online Institute led by feminists with disabilities from the Global South. Currently she works at Women Enabled International within the Advocacy and Accountability team.



Sarabajaya Kumar

Dr Sarabajaya Kumar is a scholar activist. She is an Associate Professor in Voluntary and Non-Profit Policy, and Leadership at University College London. Sarabajaya's current research interests are in Governance, Disability and Robotics, and Ethical Leadership. She is currently a visiting Professor at Osaka University and is a recipient of a Butterfield Award from the Great Britain Sasakawa Foundation who fund her research on AI enabled robots and disability in Japan.



Sarabajaya is a Director of Impatience Ltd, a non-profit organisation working on climate justice and disability justice, as well as supporting social entrepreneurs. She leads Impatience Wellbeing, which focusses on equitable working, living, and representation for disabled people. Sarabajaya is active in civil society and founded the Disabled Women in Politics Cross Party Network, as a result of her own experience contesting an election.

Talila A. Lewis



Talila A. Lewis* is a multilingual abolitionist, archivist, artist, linguist, educator, writer, griot, movement strategist, community lawyer, among other things. As a Black queer disabled person from the Deep South who grew up and lives all over the world, Lewis uses several spoken, signed/tactile, and other embodied languages. Born into a family of proud Black educators, clergy, artists, soldiers, and laborers, Lewis is a very proud legacy of the Black Southern griot and recitation traditions. By training, Lewis is a professor, attorney, orator (written-signed-spoken), multi-disciplinary artist, athlete, and community organizer, among other things.

For the past twenty years, Lewis's work primarily focused on: (1) disrupting and abolishing the medical-carceral-impoverishment industrial complex; (2) mapping and clarifying past and present links between ableism and all other forms of oppression and violence (especially focused on the intersections of ableism with anti-Black/Indigenous racism, and state/corporate repression, oppression, dispossession.); and (3) building power within and solidarity across multiply-marginalized communities. For instance, Lewis spent the past two decades supporting and freeing multiply-marginalized disabled people from various sites of confinement the world over (e.g., penal, medical, algorithmic, trade publishing, etc.).

After creating the first and only national (united states) database of imprisoned deaf and blind people in the mid-2000's, Lewis founded the cross-disability abolitionist nonprofit organization, HEARD in 2011 (www.behearddc.org). Lewis spent the next decade advocating with and for hundreds of deaf/disabled defendants and incarcerated and returned people as the volunteer director of HEARD. As one of the only people in the world who has worked on numerous wrongful conviction cases of deaf/disabled people, Lewis has litigated, testified, taught, trained, served as expert, and presented around the world on this and related topics. In 2023, after years of leading path-breaking grassroots advocacy, including successful long-term campaigns to free deaf/disabled Elders and wrongfully convicted people, Lewis "passed the torch" to the next generation at HEARD and entered a period of rest, recovery, reflection, and redefinition. During this time, Lewis also served as consultant for dozens of organizations, law firms, universities, and corporations. Lewis's body of work/words/signs/thought/education has been applied toward liberatory ends by organizers, educators, advocates, and communities around the globe.

Lewis served as the Givelber Public Interest Lecturer at Northeastern University School of Law in 2016 and served as a visiting professor at Rochester Institute of Technology/National Technical Institute for the Deaf from 2014 to 2017. Lewis is also a founding member of the Harriet Tubman Collective and lead drafter of HTC's charter document, entitled, Disability Solidarity: Completing the Vision for Black Lives; and co-creator of the Disability Solidarity praxis alongside Ki'tay D. Davidson. A 2014 graduate of American University Washington College of Law, Lewis has received awards from numerous universities, the American Bar Association, Congresswoman Eleanor Holmes Norton, the American Association for People with Disabilities, the Nation Institute, National Black Deaf Advocates, and EBONY Magazine, among others. Lewis is a 2018 Roddenberry Fellow; a 2018 Atlantic Fellow for Racial Equity; and a 2023 Soros Justice Fellow.

Talila A. Lewis (cont'd)

In this chapter of life, Lewis finds, creates, and practices freedom via travel, meditation, yoga, learning exchanges, writing, art, poetry, music, and movement (often on quad skates). Lewis is a deeply interior person, but you may be able to find updates on Lewis's personal blog and other online accounts, including Freedom Mapping Consulting and Sweet Solidarity, the latter two of which Lewis created in 2018 as free[dom] spaces.

*Lewis is genderfluid and generally does not use any pronouns. Please use Talila or Lewis in place of pronouns.

Alma McCarthy

Professor Alma McCarthy (Cert. Executive Coaching, Dip. Training & Education, BBS & French, MCIPD, PhD) is Executive Dean of the College of Business, Public Policy and Law, and Professor of Public Sector Management at University of Galway, Ireland. Her research interests include public sector leadership and human resource development, training, work-life balance, and remote working. Alma's work appears in leading international peer-reviewed journals such as Public Management Review, Public Administration Review, Human Resource Management Journal, International Journal of Human Resource Management, Human Resource Management Review, Advances in Developing Human Resources, and the Journal of Managerial Psychology. She has extensive experience in designing, delivering, and evaluating leadership and management development training programmes aimed at improving managerial competence with particular expertise in public and civil service management development. She is a Chartered Member of the CIPD, the American Academy of Management, the Society for Industrial and Organisational Psychology, and served as elected Vice-Chair and Chair of the Irish Academy of Management (IAM). She was recently conferred a Fellow of the IAM for her service to the academy. She is an accredited member of the British Psychological Society (BPS) and certified to administer a broad range of cognitive ability, personality and occupational interest psychometric assessments.



Caroline McGregor

Prof. Caroline McGregor is the Director of the Institute for Lifecourse and Society and a Senior Researcher at the UNESCO Child and Family Research Centre. Her expertise is in social work, with extensive experience in teaching, research and publishing on issues related to children, young people, and families. She co-authored "Support and Protection Across the Lifecourse" (2021) with Professor Pat Dolan. Since 2012, she has collaborated on research focused on persons with direct care experiences, family support, prevention, early intervention, and child protection. Additionally, she has worked as an SFI investigator on a CURAM project focusing on impact orientation of principal investigators and science advocacy training.



Marius Markuckas

Marius Markuckas completed his doctoral studies in Philosophy, defended his doctoral dissertation on transhumanism, and obtained his PhD at Vilnius University in 2022. His main research interests include transhumanism, posthumanism, bioethics, and social and political philosophy. He currently works at Vytautas Magnus University, where he has been conducting postdoctoral research on “Conceptual Modeling of a Human Rights-Based Response to the Likely Impact of Transhumanism on Persons with Disabilities.”



Akriti Mehta

Akriti Mehta (she/her) is a Mad/disabled researcher and activist with more than ten years' experience in community, academic, and activist knowledge production. She is the co-director of Mad Thinking, a new initiative which strives to create spaces and tools for critical reflection, collective learning, and solidarity, with the ultimate goal of strengthening disability organising. Akriti has also recently completed a PhD from the London School of Economics and Political Science focussed on activist practices within psychosocial disability movements in India. She is part of collectives focused on disability justice, anti-racism, and queer action in the UK and in India.



Sofía Minieri

As Strategy Manager at Women Enabled International (WEI), Sofía Minieri co-leads WEI's efforts to identify and address the challenges faced by human rights defenders working at the intersection of gender and disability and to foster an ecosystem in which they have the resources and support they need to sustain their vital work and leadership. Previously, she led WEI's collaborative strategies to strengthen the capacity of individual advocates, civil society organizations, states, funders, and other stakeholders to advance human rights from a gender and disability inclusion approach. Prior to joining WEI in 2021, Sofía worked with civil society organizations, intergovernmental agencies, and regional human rights bodies to implement strategic interventions to address gender-based violence and discrimination and advance sexual and reproductive rights in Argentina and the Americas. She holds an LL.M. from Columbia Law School and an LL.B. in Law from the Universidad Torcuato Di Tella, Argentina.



Yoshiko Miwa

Yoshiko Miwa is a freelance journalist covering science, technology, and social issues. She is also a Visiting Researcher at Ritsumeikan University, where she earned her Ph.D. in 2023 with a dissertation on how Japan's social welfare policy frames "self-reliance." After acquiring disabilities in middle age and becoming a wheelchair user, she developed a strong interest in poverty and disability, especially after the 2011 Great East Japan Earthquake. She now conducts quantitative research on economic support for low-income people in disaster recovery. Since 2014, she has engaged in international human rights advocacy, sharing information on vulnerable groups with the UN and other bodies. That same year, she received the Grand Prize of the Poverty Journalism Award in Japan. She is the founder and director of Resource of Poverty, Women, Children, and Disability in Japan. A lifelong lover of classical music and a foster carer for rescued cats for about 40 years.



April Parker

April is a disabled woman from Laois. She currently works as a Policy and Public Affairs Advisor at the National Disability Authority. She was a research assistant at the Centre for Disability Law and Policy from 2021-2023, where she worked on the ResPoNCE Project re: Covid 19 in Europe. During this time April also worked with UN Women to advance access to justice for women with disabilities in the Asia-Pacific region. She also supported the work of the Global Coalition on Deinstitutionalisation. April holds an LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law & Policy from University of Galway. In 2019, April interned in the Office of the Special Rapporteur for Disability in Geneva. She read Philosophy and English Literature at University College Cork.



Aideen Quirke

Aideen Quirke (she/her) is a curator and artist based in Cork. She holds an MA Museum Studies from UCC and a BA Fine Art from Crawford College of Art and Design, MTU. Aideen is a board member of GOMA, Waterford where she assists with governance and strategic development. Aideen has a background working with institutions and artists in curatorial, education and production roles. She collaborates with artists to produce new work: contributing, facilitating and participating in theory (reciprocal knowledge production, research and writing); and hands-on practice (fabrication, installation, display methods and mediation). She uses textiles and printmaking to work with community groups and young people making art about ideas like collective care and climate action. Through consultancy work she assists cultural organisations with installation, text production, mediation, developing funding applications and accessing spaces. Contact: aideenquirke@gmail.com



Yuliia Sachuk

Yuliia Sachuk is a Ukrainian disability rights advocate and founder of Fight for Right, a national organization led by women with disabilities. In response to Russia's full-scale invasion, she launched an Emergency Response mechanism that has supported over 35,000 Ukrainians with disabilities. She also founded the Disability Rights Center and the Leaderka School of Political Participation for girls and women with disabilities.

Yuliia's work focuses on deinstitutionalization and inclusive EU accession and recovery of Ukraine. She actively promotes political participation and leadership of people with disabilities in democratic processes.

She was named one of the BBC 100 Women in 2022, is an Obama Foundation Leader Europe, and received the Ukrainian National Human Rights Award. She was nominated as Ukraine's candidate to the UN CRPD Committee in 2020. Yuliia holds an LL.M. in International Disability Law and Policy from the University of Galway.



Samaneh Shabani

Dr. Samaneh Shabani is a gender and disability rights advocate originally from Iran. She holds an academic background in international law, human rights, and transitional justice.

Her work bridges research and policy, providing technical and evidence-based documents for organizations and the United Nations on gender and disability issues. Currently based in Brussels, she collaborates closely with organizations focused on disability rights.



Maria Laura Serra

Maria Laura Serra is a researcher at the University of Valladolid (UVA) in Spain. Her research interests include intersectionality, legal capacity, equality, and mental health.

She currently serves as the principal investigator (PI) of RECAJES, a grant-funded project supported by the Spanish Research Council, and an independent project focused on exploring the human rights of persons with psychosocial disabilities within the Spanish mental health system, funded by the EU Next Generation Fund/UVA.



Md. Rejaul Karim Siddiquee

Advocate Rejaul Karim Siddiquee is a disability inclusion expert, socio-legal researcher, human rights activist and public interest lawyer at the Supreme Court of Bangladesh. He has worked with a wide range of rights and justice organizations including International Disability Alliance (IDA), BlueLaw International LLC, Maxwell Stamp PLC and Bangladesh Legal Aid and Services Trust (BLAST) in different capacities. He is the co-author of a few books and articles including a Lawyer's Manual and DPO Advocacy Handbook and Mobilizing Disabled Peoples' Organizations to Implement Bangladesh's Disability Law which is published in the Oxford Journal of Human Rights Practice. His work spans from Bangladesh to missions in Germany, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Rwanda and Switzerland, advocating for inclusive policies and programs, CRPD-aligned legal reforms and good governance. He won Acumen Fellowship 2020 as a change maker in Bangladesh. Rejaul is a juvenile chronic arthritis survivor who has multiple disabilities. Learn more about Rejaul here: [Rejaul Karim Siddiquee \(rejaulsiddiquee.com\)](http://RejaulKarimSiddiquee.com)



Linda Steele

Dr Linda Steele is an Associate Professor at University of Technology Sydney Faculty of Law. She is a disability socio-legal researcher focused on law's role in enabling and redressing violence against disabled people. She is currently focused on redress schemes, truth-telling, reparative pedagogies and memorialisation particularly in the contexts of institutionalisation, sterilisation and 'sheltered' employment. She collaborates with Disabled People's Organisations, including People with Disability Australia, Inclusion Australia, Women with Disabilities Australia and Council for Intellectual Disability. In 2024 she was the recipient of the inaugural Hudson-Primer Fellowship Award from Northwestern Pritzker Law School Center for Disability and Racial Justice. She 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 UBC Press) and *The Legacies of Institutionalisation: Disability, Law and Policy in the 'Deinstitutionalised' Community* (2020 Hart Publishing).



Vijay Kishor Tiwari



Dr Vijay Kishor Tiwari is currently an Assistant Professor (Law) at The West Bengal University of Juridical Sciences (WBNUJS), Kolkata. Critical Disability Studies, Human Rights Law, and Jurisprudence are my areas of interest. I am a person with disability who experiences disability due to infantile hemiparesis. In my family, there are other instances of disability. My younger brother experiences cognitive disability due to the condition of Down syndrome. These lived experiences of disabilities have always gravitated me towards disability justice activism to ensure a just, fair, and accessible world for us. I am one of the primary authors of the WBNUJS Policy for Persons with Disabilities, 2022, the first of its kind policy among all law schools of India that attempts to make legal education inclusive for students with disabilities. I established the Center for Disability Rights and Equal Opportunities, WBNUJS, in the year 2020. The Center is actively imparting knowledge about disability advocacy and sensitization on disability issues. Apart from my disability advocacy, I have written extensively on disability issues in The Indian Express, Supreme Court Observer, The Wire, and other platforms.

Catherine Hyde Townsend



Catherine Townsend is an accomplished international human rights, social justice, disability, and gender expert whose work illuminates the critical connections between disability and the most pressing issues of our times. In her capacity as Senior Advisor for Disability Inclusion at the Ford Foundation, she directs the foundation's grant making, learning, and operational practices to ensure the full inclusion of individuals with disabilities. Earlier in her career at the Wellspring Philanthropic Fund, Catherine developed new funding approaches to protect human rights defenders and advance disability rights. During that time, she co-created the Disability Rights Fund in 2007 - an early example of participatory funding and the first donor focused on the rights of persons with disabilities in the Global South. Catherine currently serves as the Board President for Women Enabled International, is a mother of teens, and loves a good book

Alannah Uí Geargáin



Alannah Uí Geargáin is a Disabled law student who hopes to pursue a career as a Barrister at Law. With a publication forthcoming on Disabled feminism and Irish socio-political movements in The Routledge International Handbook of Feminist Disability Studies, their focus is mainly in the field of Disability law. The first Access officer in the history of the Honourable Society of Kings Inns, they are a steadfast advocate for greater equity of access to justice. They are based in Dublin, and hope to engage in further research on Disability and the Irish Constitution with a keen focus on Disability and Nationalism under Occupation. They are a qualified Legal Observer.

Alberto Vásquez Encalada

Alberto Vásquez Encalada is a Mad/disability rights activist with 20 years of experience in disability rights and mental health policy. He is the co-director of Mad Thinking and has worked as a consultant for various UN agencies. Alberto holds a Law degree from the Pontifical Catholic University of Peru and a Master's in Disability Law and Policy from the National University of Ireland, Galway. He is a founding member of the RedEsfera Latinoamericana por las Culturas Locas, la Diversidad Psicosocial, la Justicia, el Buen Vivir y el Derecho al Delirio. Alberto chairs Sociedad y Discapacidad (SODIS), co-chairs the Disability Rights Fund (DRF), and serves as an honorary fellow at the Human Rights Centre of the University of Essex.



Eilionóir Flynn

Eilionóir Flynn is an Established Chair in Law and Director of the Centre for Disability Law and Policy, National University of Ireland Galway. Her research focuses on disability and social justice, with a particular emphasis on legal capacity, advocacy and reproductive justice. She is passionate about educating the next generation of disability rights scholars; and working in active partnership with disabled people's organisations. Her research has received funding awards from the European Research Council, Wellcome Trust and Horizon 2020. Eilionóir regularly advises policy-makers at national and international levels, including providing support to the Secretariat of the UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, and in particular the working group which developed General Comment No. 1.



Fire Exits

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 person walking. Alternatively ask someone in a maroon 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 Emergency 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.

COVID Protocols

We strongly recommend and encourage you to wear a mask at all times, especially while in the auditorium or other highly populated spaces (except when eating at breaks and lunch time). Good hygiene / cough etiquette should be observed at all times - hand sanitiser and masks will be available during the event. Please do not come to the event if you have any symptoms of COVID-19 or any other respiratory infection. If you become unwell during the conference, please contact the event organisers and they will advise you of the next steps.

Permit Parking on Campus

If you have a registered for a permit, using the information provided to all attendees, then you should park in the spaces marked with WHITE lines. If you do not have permit you can avail of Pay and Display parking. These are the BLUE lined spaces in the park and ride car park. There are several accessible parking spaces available directly outside ILAS and at two locations close by. You do not need a campus permit to park in these spaces. However, you must display a valid EU disabled parking permit or blue badge. Clamping is in operation across campus and if you do not have a valid permit or do not follow the instructions above you may be clamped.

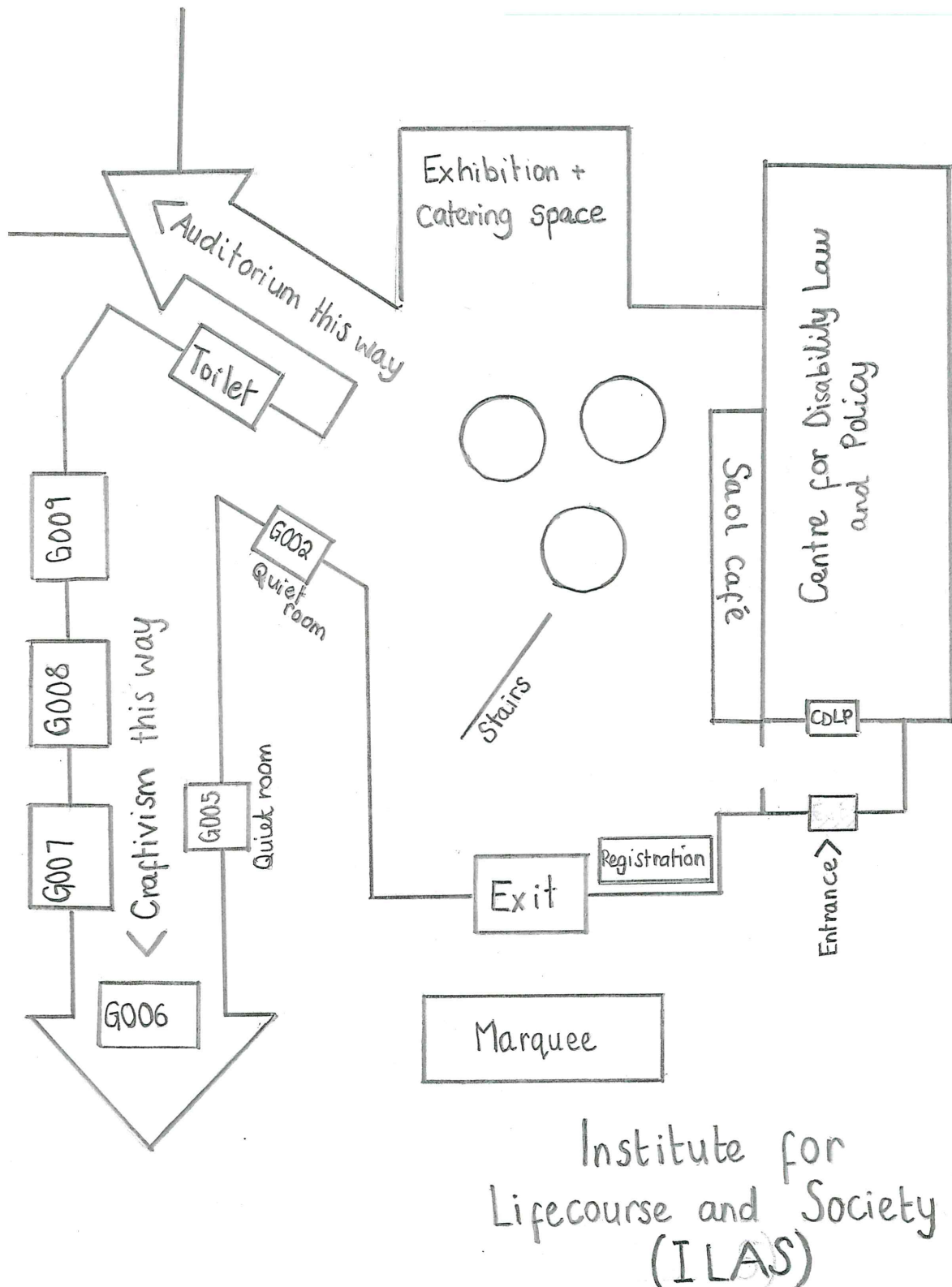
Quiet/Lactation Room

We have two quiet rooms. G002 can be used as quiet space or lactation room. It is located opposite the bathrooms on the ground floor. The second quiet room is G005. Please see venue map provided or ask a staff member or volunteer for directions.

Photography & Video Recording

We will be taking photos and recording videos during the event. If you do not want your photo taken or to be included in our videos please inform the person at the registration desk and you will receive a different coloured lanyard.

Venue Map: Institute for Lifecourse and Society





While we don't all get to gather in Galway, we do still want to be able to chat and discuss what we are learning. To that end we have set up a Discord. The link to access the group will be in your email.

Channels

These are themed by day – so there are three themed channels. We also have channels for craftivism, the BBQ, general summer school information and to talk about interests and what work you are doing. This is a place to ask questions and have discussions about the #16thDSS.

Group Purpose

The Discord exists to allow us to communicate over the Summer School. We hope it will help facilitate some of the chats that normally occur over lunch or between sessions. We hope you will enjoy being part of the group and both benefit from it and contribute to it so others benefit. No experience is too little, and no contribution is too small!

Introducing Yourself

Once you have joined, please introduce yourself. There is a channel marked for this purpose. This is a good space to share your work. Share as much as you would like to. It is never too late to introduce yourself so don't worry if you did not do so immediately.

Self-promotional posts are encouraged, as long as they relate to the CRPD or the summer school theme. This includes asking members to like, follow or share your personal social media accounts or blogs, read your journal articles, contribute to or attend your conferences, participate in research etc. Don't be shy, it's what we're here for!

Posting

Posts do not need prior moderator approval. This is a space for all Summer School delegates and we can each be responsible for what we post, and our tone. However, do please see the discussion on 'safe space' below.

Confidentiality

While you are free to share public information learned in this group widely, be conscious if people are sharing personal experiences that they may not want them to be shared outside the group.

Posting Links

Posting links to articles, threads, videos, calls for papers, conference details, jobs, etc. that may be of interest to Summer School delegates is encouraged. Please provide a basic information as a 'scene setter' rather than posting a link on its own (e.g. 'Interesting article re disabled activism'). This allows group members to judge whether the link is relevant and worth clicking, it promotes discussion, and it allows colleagues to search for the post later. Posts should also include a Content Warning if they contain sensitive material which others might find distressing or difficult.

Searching

Given the size of the group and the number of posts, it is easy to miss things. You can search the channels and we encourage it.

Duplication

Please check that a comment or article hasn't already been shared so we can keep conversations in one place; a quick search can find previous threads on popular items such as referencing, social media presence etc. It can be helpful to read/add to existing discussions rather than to create new ones that inevitably repeat the same information; this helps keep advice in the same place too rather than in multiple threads.

Commenting and Posting Policy

By participating in this group, you are agreeing to our commenting and posting policy, outlined here. These rules are all about the creation and maintenance of a safe space.

1. Please treat your fellow group members with the same respect and understanding you would want to see in your life. When commenting try and add constructive, valuable comments to the conversation. Be friendly, be fair, and treat each other with mutual respect.
2. Do not delete posts or comments unless you have been instructed to do so by a moderator. This is so that problematic posts can be a source of learning, to sit with our discomfort if called in/out and also to acknowledge and respect the labour of commentators in replying to the post.
3. Do not personally attack other members with comments that are harmful, threatening, or demeaning.
4. Trolling, or posting deliberately disruptive statements meant to hijack comment threads or throw discussions off-track are not allowed.

Members who break these rules will receive one warning before being removed from the discord.

Safe Space

This group is first and foremost a SAFE SPACE. What do we mean? Racism, ageism, homophobia, sexism, transphobia, ableism or prejudice based on ethnicity, disability, nationality, class, gender, gender presentation, language ability, asylum status or religious affiliation will not be tolerated.

Moderators are not here to limit or direct conversation but are here to ensure this space is safe and productive for all our members. We do not moderate this page continually, there are many posts with multiple threads, and there will inevitably be times when an inappropriate post cannot be immediately addressed by the moderators. If there is a problem, please report the post and wait for a response.

Posts that contain transphobic, homophobic, misogynistic, ableist, racist or similarly offensive material may also be removed, and the member messaged privately; egregious acts will result in immediate removal from the group. In this case, all decisions are at the discretion of the moderating team.

While we will always try to explain why a decision has been made, we are under no obligation to defend an action and harassment of moderators will also not be tolerated.

If you feel a member has violated our guidelines, please challenge them or report it. However, do not use it as an excuse to violate guidelines in response; and of course, do not harass or bully other users (this includes non- and ex-members). Harassment may include: name calling, using profanity, refusing to leave a member alone if they have requested you do so, creating new threads in order to specifically target one person etc. Do report trolls or abusive commentary (by tagging or sending a message) to a moderator (listed under 'members' in the group page).

Before joining a heated debate, please ask if you can offer anything new to the conversation - dialogue is most effective when people have space to think and learn. If you do want to contribute, try to make it a positive interaction.

Content Warnings

As noted above, all posts of a sensitive nature should be preceded with a content warning. For example, a content warning could read *The linked article contains a description of violence or abuse.* Do please highlight content in your post so that group members can choose to avoid it if they would prefer, but to allow others to read it and you to post without self-censoring.

Patience and tolerance...with each other, and with the moderators. We accept that we are all human, and we will all make mistakes within this learning process.

Downloading the Discord Application

You will get a link to do this in your registration email. You can also go to the GooglePlay/Apple AppStore.

Follow these steps to register.

1. You will be asked to register with Discord. Press the blue button which reads 'Register'.
2. You will be asked to enter your phone number.
3. You will be sent a confirmation code.
4. You will be asked for your birthday.
5. Put in your name.
6. Make up a password
7. You are now signed up for Discord.
8. Click the Blue button to join the Summer School server.

You can also open Discord in your desktop browser using the login details you setup above.

WiFi - Eduroam

Remember to check your badge for your individual login details

#16thDSS

What is Craftivism?

Crafting + activism = craftivism

Craftivism is a visual, handmade form of activism that usually includes elements of anti-capitalism, environmentalism and feminism. Craftivism includes any visual art or design work including but not limited to drawing, painting, street art, collage, embroidery, crochet, knitting, posters and digital art.

Anyone can take part. You do not need knowledge or skills, only a willingness to try and an openness to each other. Craftivism has a long history of use – particularly by women – in human rights campaigns. From the Arpilleras (narrative quilt squares) sewn by Chilean women protesting the injustices of the Pinochet regime to the AIDS memorial quilt, from the many varied actions of the #JusticeForLB campaign to the Irish abortion rights campaign around the 2018 Referendum, craftivism has lifted voices, started conversations, visually disrupted public arenas, and raised consciousness about social issues and injustices. Craftivists come together in a spirit of openness to create connection with each other and to create visual representations of the injustices that drive us.



"Craftivism is a way of looking at life where voicing opinions through creativity makes your voice stronger, your compassion deeper and your quest for justice more infinite."

- Betsy Greer, 2003

Disabled activism: self-care as radical resistance

The theme of this year's International Disability Law Summer School is "Disabled Activism in a time of Far-Right Resurgence". Disabled activism often means engaging with people, structures and processes that can be hostile to our very existence. In this context, rest, mutual support and self-care become radical challenges to oppression. Lorde writes: "Caring for myself is not self-indulgence, it is self-preservation, and that is an act of political warfare." In their Crip-of-Colour critique of the radical politics of self-care, Jina B Kim and Sami Schalk urge us to do more to break down the activist-academic divide to support and lift up the work of marginalized activists and cultural work. For International Disability Law Summer School 2025, artist and curator Aideen Quirke invites participants to use their creativity as a display of joy and solidarity, as an act of resistance against hate and discord. Using different techniques including textiles, stencilling and printmaking, we will share in the enjoyment of making art to encourage working together, taking care of each other and amplifying our collective voice.

Taking part in our collaborative work

You may work with others to contribute to the large collaborative artwork, or you may take a piece of fabric away with you on Monday to add your own embellishments or craftwork. Online participants can also be part of this project.

There are two steps that must be completed **by 6pm on Tuesday, 17th June**:

1. If you are an **IN-PERSON attendee** who has chosen to create an individual piece rather than collaborate with others, please submit your piece to Aideen or one of the volunteers in Room G006.

2. **IN-PERSON and ONLINE attendees** should all scan or take a photograph of your piece or your contribution to the collaborative work and send it as a PNG, JPEG or PDF file by email to emma.burns@universityofgalway.ie with "Craftivism by YOUR NAME" in the subject line.

- Use the best lighting you have available (sunlight is often best).
- Your image should be a maximum of 25 MBs.

Please remember to Include a written description of your crafted piece in your email so we can ensure accessibility for as many people as possible.

- A good written description makes an object accessible by describing essential information about it, including its shape, materials, texture, colours and size.
- Generally, image descriptions should be objective so that people reading it can form their own opinions about what the image means.
- As this is a craftivism piece, you are free to explain any meaning attached to the piece, the emotions of creating it, or simply reflect on your experience of Summer School.
- Try to be concise so that it doesn't take too long for people to absorb all the information.
- Your description will be published with the online digital version of the completed project.

All images will be uploaded to the International Disability Law Summer School Craftivism web page. In-person submissions will be integrated into the larger collaborative collage piece and will join our collection of craftivist images.

About the CDLP

Research

Progressive Research to Enable Policy Action to Respond and Educate on Disability (PREPARED)

PREPARED is an exciting new Marie Curie-Skłodowska Cofund project led by the Centre for Disability Law and Policy at the University of Galway in partnership with Swiss Paraplegic Research and the University of Lisbon. It aims to support the next generation of disability rights postdoctoral researchers to respond to the most urgent global challenges of our time. As governments, development agencies and civil society struggle to respond to challenges such as the climate crisis, the refugee crisis and the covid-19 pandemic, disabled people are often left behind. PREPARED will equip postdoctoral researchers to address these global challenges by offering opportunities within leading global interdisciplinary research teams, and embedding researchers where they are most needed – in organisations outside academia where they can apply their research to real world problems, ensuring maximum societal impact.

We will be recruiting a total of 6 postdoctoral researchers for PREPARED between 2025 and 2029. Recruitment will occur in two phases – 3 postdoctoral researchers will be recruited in 2025 (the closing date has now passed for applications) and 3 further postdoctoral researchers will be recruited in 2026.

Web: <https://preparedresearch.eu/>

Email: prepared.eu@universityofgalway.ie

Young people who are non-speaking, sometimes speaking or communicate differently and the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act 2015

This project sets out to learn how young people who are non-speaking, sometimes speaking, or communicate differently can access and use the support agreements under the Assisted Decision - Making (Capacity) Act 2015. It has worked with a small group of young people who are non-speaking, sometimes speaking, or communicate differently and their families to learn about their experience of using or transitioning to a formally registered support agreement under the Act. The project has also surveyed professionals, from a broad range of backgrounds, to establish their understanding of new law, the challenges they encounter in their professional practice and their understanding of how the Act applies to young people who communicate differently.

Web: universityofgalway.ie/cdlp

Email: cliona.debhailis@universityofgalway.ie

Representative Advocacy for Children with Intellectual Disabilities in Ireland

This research worked with an advisory group of young people, aged 18 – 24 years old, with intellectual disabilities to finalise the research materials, complete the data collection and data analysis. Focus groups were arranged with children with intellectual disabilities, aged 9 – 17 and their parents or guardians to document their experiences and what sort of advocacy support they require. The project also interviewed key stakeholders in the area including representatives of government departments, advocacy services and children's rights organisations. The final report explored whether there is a need for a representative advocacy service for children with intellectual disabilities and their families in Ireland and what form such a service should take.

Web: universityofgalway.ie/cdlp

Email: info.cdlp@universityofgalway.ie

Marginalisation, Disability and Candidature in the 2024 Elections

This research focused on the experiences of disabled candidates who stood in the Irish local and European elections (2024) who hold multiple marginalised identities, including those protected under the nine grounds of The Equal Status Acts 2000-2018 (e.g. disabled women, disabled migrants, disabled travellers, disabled LGBTQ+ candidates). The research was comprised of 1-to-1 qualitative interviews with multiply marginalised disabled people who stood in the 2024 elections, utilising a case study approach detailing a small number of cases. The study aimed to understand the intersection of barriers facing these candidates and how Ireland's compliance with Article 29 of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) could be better achieved using an intersectional lens.

Web: universityofgalway.ie/cdlp

Email: info.cdlp@universityofgalway.ie

Training

ADM Training is primarily designed for those working with and supporting people affected by the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act. This includes professionals working with disabled people, older people and people with mental health experience. The training is designed to focus on practical challenges in implementing the Act, with examples of promising practice from other countries.

Web: universityofgalway.ie/cdlp

Email: cdlp.events@universityofgalway.ie

Getting to Grips is a training series primarily designed for self-advocates and those who would benefit from an accessible way of training delivery. Topics covered to date include the UNCRPD and the Assisted Decision-Making (Capacity) Act. Training may be delivered online or in-person and seeks to ensure that attendees understand their rights and how they can ensure those rights are respected.

Web: <https://cdlp.clr.events/>

Email: cdlp.events@universityofgalway.ie

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 UN Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities are exclusively offered to two of our students. Interns will complete research to support the UN Committee's work and will participate in Committee sessions.
- ▶ **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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▶ An approved Second Class Honours Degree, Grade 1 (2.1) in law, or an inter-disciplinary degree in which law was a major component. ▶ 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. ▶ International students should refer to the country specific information section of the International Office website: https://www.universityofgalway.ie/international-students/

WHAT OUR STUDENTS SAY...

The LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy at University of 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@universityofgalway.ie	Apply at: www.universityofgalway.ie/apply	Programme information: https://www.universityofgalway.ie/courses/how-to-apply/ and https://www.universityofgalway.ie/courses/taught-postgraduate-courses/llb/
---	---	---

Accessible Galway

Things to See

Galway City

- Galway City Museum
- The Prom (Promenade Salthill)
- The Spanish Arch
- Galway Market

Galway County

- Coole Park and Visitor Centre
- Kylemore Abbey (partially accessible)
- Aran Islands
- Clifden

Things to do

- Eye Cinema
- IMC Cinema
- Omniplex Cinema (lift access)
- Town Hall Theatre
- Corrib Princess River tours (no bathroom)
- Galway Greyhound Track (outside ground level only)
- Galway Atlantaquaria
- Trad on the Prom

Places to Eat

- Hooked (Seafood)
- McDonaghs (Seafood)
- Asian Tea House (Asian Restaurant)
- Kashmir (Indian restaurant)
- Rè Nao (Asian restaurant)
- Dela (Nice Brunch and fancy dinner)
- Wylde, the cafe of The Hyde Hotel

Cafes

- Mr Waffle (Newcastle)
- Gourmet Tart Co (Salthill)
- Ground and Co (Salthill)
- McCambridges

Good Bar Food

- Oslo (Salthill)
- The Kings Head (High Street)
- BierHaus (Henry Street)
- The Quays (Quay Street)
- An Pucan (Forster Street)
- Busker Browns (Cross Street)
- Osteria Italiana Da Simone (ramp access on request)
- Massimo (William Street)
- Roisin Dubh (Dominick Street)
- Murphys (High Street)

Taxi Services

- Galway Taxis +353 91 561111
- Galway City Taxis +353 91 525 252
- Big O Taxis +353 91 585858
- Cara Cabs +353 91 563939
- Pro Cabs +353 91 535353

Bus Service

- 404 Serves ILAS (Institute for Lifecourse and Society) and the city centre (Eyre Square)

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

