

The Ghent Dialogues: Co-designing Inclusion and Belonging Through Disability Studies and the Arts

Information Package for the Meeting in Ghent, Belgium

The focus of this project is to develop an international network of people who want to talk about disability, disability studies, inclusion and education. We are creating a network of folks doing this work across Europe, North America, the United Kingdom and Aotearoa New Zealand. We are looking forward to talking with you! Come as you are and tell us about what you do and what you dream about – there is nothing extra to prepare.

The purpose of the network is to help move disability studies research and policy frameworks (like the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities) into practice in an embodied and felt way. We plan to do this work collaboratively with community members to center the knowledge of disabled youth advocates, family members, artists and educators. At the heart of our approach is activism, advocacy, storytelling and the arts as powerful movers and teachers.

We are using a Social Sciences Research Council of Canada Destination Horizon Grant to develop and strengthen a network of people who work to improve inclusion and belonging by moving disability studies knowledge into inclusive practice through storytelling and the arts. We hope that one day, people in this network might secure funding for international research projects (for example, through Horizon Europe, Pillar II). Our gathering and this growing network respond to two central questions: **How do disability and disability studies matter in education? If you could build the perfect school, what would it be?**

Questions or comments about this work may be directed to the project lead, Dr. Patty Douglas (douglas.patricia@queensu.ca), Dr. Elisabeth De Schauwer elisabeth.deschauwer@ugent.be) or Paisley Worthington (20pw@queensu.ca)



Agenda and Location(s)

The in-person meetings on Wednesday October 14 and Thursday October 15 will take place in the Sanctus Erasmus/Ireneus meeting room at the Monasterium in Ghent, Belgium.

Those joining virtually can use this [Zoom link](#) or the following Meeting ID (959 3675 3837) and Passcode (791847).

	Wednesday, October 14	Thursday, October 15
10am – 12pm (CEST)	A conversation between Artists and Researchers Located at the Monasterium or on Zoom .	A conversation between Family Members and Researchers Located at the Monasterium or on Zoom .
12pm – 1pm (CEST)	Lunch Located at the Monasterium . Lunch will be provided to all in-person invitees from this morning and this afternoon.	Lunch Located at the Monasterium . Lunch will be provided to all in-person invitees from this morning and this afternoon.
1pm – 3pm (CEST)	A conversation between Researchers Located at the Monasterium or on Zoom .	A conversation between (Youth) Advocates and Researchers Located at the Monasterium or on Zoom .
3pm – 4pm (CEST)	Debrief time held for Researchers Located at the Monasterium or on Zoom .	Debrief time held for Researchers Located at the Monasterium or on Zoom .

Format and Expectations

Inspired by the work of the team and countless researchers, disability youth advocates, disability artists and educators (e.g., Dan Goodley's [Disability Matters](#) project, Anat Greenstein's [Today's Learning Objective is to Have a Party](#) and many more), this series of meetings focus on our central questions: **How do disability and disability studies matter in education? If you could design the perfect school, what would it be? How can disability arts help move research into practice?**

The purpose of our project is to strengthen our network and make new connections by learning about the work that is already happening. We want to hear about the projects, research, hopes, dreams and provocations of our colleagues across the globe. The conversations we hope to have require minimal to zero preparation; these are informal, roundtable style discussions about the work we already do.

When the group consists of researchers only, participants will be invited to share their provocations, academic perspectives, and active reflections on how disability and disability studies matter in education.

When the group consists of researchers and artists, family members, or (youth) advocates, participants will be invited to share about their work and lived experience in casual language. Speakers are always in control of what they choose to share with the group, and no participant should feel pressure to disclose information they do not want to. Each group will receive in advance a list of suggested questions that could help shape the response they share with the group.

Accessibility

The entire Monasterium, including the reception, restaurant, meeting room, and most of the hotel rooms, is wheelchair accessible. Ramps are available where necessary. Unfortunately, we do not have any maps of the building. If you have access needs or desires that you would like to share with the planning team, please email Paisley Worthington (20pw@queensu.ca).

We look forward to talking with and welcoming you!