



Queen's University
Belfast

SCHOOL OF
Sociology, Social Policy
and Social Work

DISABILITY
RESEARCH
NETWORK



Update June 2014

- ✚ The Disability Research Network (DRN) was established in September 2013 and is co-chaired by Dr Bronagh Byrne and Dr Berni Kelly. The Disability Research Network is a multi-disciplinary initiative aimed at enhancing collaboration between academics, policymakers, practitioners and community and voluntary sector organisations with an interest in disability studies and research.
- ✚ Our first event, an Improving Children's Lives funded seminar: 'Moving On: Young Disabled People and Transitions' was held on 20 September 2013 with keynote international speakers from University of Vienna and University of Edinburgh as well as speakers from Queen's University Belfast, the Health and Social Care Board, and Barnardo's Disabled Children and Young People's Participation Project (DCYPPP). The event attracted 140 attendees from across Northern Ireland.
- ✚ On 15th November 2013, the DRN hosted a seminar in conjunction with the Safeguarding Board for Northern Ireland (SBNI). The seminar explored issues relating to safeguarding disabled children and young people and included presentations from Prof. Kirsten Stalker, University of Strathclyde; Dr Bronagh Byrne, QUB; Dr Berni Kelly and Dr Sandra Dowling, QUB; Iolo Eilian from the Health and Social Care Board and members from Barnardo's DCYPPP.
- ✚ The first meeting of the DRN Steering Group took place on 31 March 2014. The role of the Steering Committee is to guide the Disability Research Network with a particular focus on collaboration, knowledge exchange and the strategic development of disability research relevant to current policy and practice in Northern Ireland. For details on membership of the Steering Group, please see <http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/DisabilityResearchNetwork/AboutUs/OurPeople/OurSteeringGroup/>
- ✚ The Disability Research Network is delighted to welcome Dr Colin Harper as the DRN's first visiting research fellow. Dr Harper previously managed the Centre on Human Rights for People with Disabilities and was involved in actively lobbying the UK Government in the ratification of the UNCRPD. He was also previously a philosophy lecturer at UU and a research fellow in the Department of Mental Health in Queen's School of Medicine. Dr Harper is currently Assistant Director for Mental Health and Community Care Policy at the Law Centre NI as well as an

independent consultant. His research interests lie in the CRPD, mental health and mental capacity law, and the law and ethics of confidentiality in health and social care. Dr Harper is currently working with Dr Bronagh Byrne and Dr Gavin Davidson on a range of projects.

- ✚ Professor Michael Schwartz from Syracuse University, New York has been awarded a prestigious Fulbright Scholarship to undertake a research project at Queen's University Belfast in the 2014-15 academic year. Michael's research will focus on: 'Access to Health Care for Deaf People: How is Northern Ireland Complying with the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities?' Michael Schwartz, a deaf lawyer, is an associate professor and director of the Disability Rights Clinic, Syracuse law school's civil rights clinic for people with disabilities. Formerly a University Fellow, Schwartz holds five degrees, including a Ph.D. degree from Syracuse University in Education with a concentration in Disability Studies.
- ✚ The Disability Research Network at Queen's University Belfast hosted the annual seminar of the UK Disabled Child Research Network on the 25th June 2014. This UK wide network brings together academics and practitioners who are acknowledged experts in the field of disability research with reference to children and young people, as well as early career researchers and PhD students. The scope of their work is interdisciplinary and firmly grounded in the social, educational and policy context pertinent to disabled children and their families. There is a strong focus on methodological developments in research within the network. For more information please contact Sandra Dowling: s.dowling@qub.ac.uk
- ✚ Our website continues to be updated with details of our publications and research projects. For more information see our current research themes at <http://www.qub.ac.uk/research-centres/DisabilityResearchNetwork/Themes/>
- ✚ You can follow us on twitter: @QUB_DRN and/or like our page on facebook: Disability Research Network at Queen's University Belfast

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Disability Research Network at
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