

Ciara Brennan

Employment
2011-2014

Early Stage Researcher. Marie Curie FP7 Training Network- Disability Rights Expanding Accessible Markets (DREAM)

Centre for Disability Studies, University of Iceland, Gimli Saemundargotu 2, 101 Reykjavik Iceland.

I held a Marie Curie scholarship at the Centre for Disability Studies, University of Iceland. The DREAM network aimed to assist the EU and its Member States in their efforts to implement the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) at EU and Member State levels. My role in the network was to examine the implementation of Article 19 of the CRPD in Europe.

January- May
2012

Research Assistant. JAG- Equality, Assistance and Inclusion

Klara Södra Kyrkogata 1, 23 Stockholm, Sweden.

I was the principal investigator on an internal research report for the JAG organisation in Stockholm. JAG is a Swedish centre for independent living for people with intellectual disabilities. The report examined how the organisation could use the CRPD to advance independent living for people with intellectual disabilities in Sweden, Finland and Norway. This was undertaken as part of the DREAM network.

2009-2011

Research Assistant. The National Institute for Intellectual Disability, Trinity College Dublin

University of Dublin, Trinity College, 4 th floor, 3 College Green, Dublin 2.

I worked on a wide range of inclusive and participatory research projects at the NIID, including a report for the National Council for Special Education (NCSE) on transition from second level education for students with intellectual disabilities and a report for the Strategic Innovation Fund (SIF) on the rollout of the Certificate in Contemporary Living (CCL) in Ireland. I collaborated with self advocacy groups and I developed easy-to-read accessible reports.

Education

2012-present

PhD in Disability Studies, University of Iceland

Centre for Disability Studies, University of Iceland, Gimli Saemundargotu 2, 101 Reykjavik Iceland.

Supervisor: Professor Rannveig Traustadóttir

My PhD thesis is entitled “The Nordic experience of independent living and personal assistance. A human rights approach”. The purpose of the doctoral thesis is to explore the meaning of independent living and personal assistance from the perspective of key stakeholders in the implementation of Article 19 of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in three Nordic countries. It is a thesis by publication. It is on schedule to be submitted in June 2017.

2008-2009

M.Sc. in Applied Social Research, Trinity College Dublin

School of Social Work and Social Policy, Trinity College Dublin

I acquired skills in qualitative and quantitative research, ethics and research design. My Master’s thesis focused on the life stories of people with intellectual disabilities in the Republic of Ireland.

2004-2007

BSocSc in Social Science, University College Dublin

BSocSc in Social Science, University College Dublin

The Bachelors of Social Science programme covered a broad range of modules, including social work, economics, sociology, and disability studies. My core modules were Social Policy and Political Science.

Publications

Brennan, C. (2017). Article 19 and the Nordic Experience of Independent Living and Personal Assistance. In P. Blanck & E. Flynn (Eds.), *A Research Companion to Disability Law*. Oxon: Routledge.

Brennan, C., Traustadóttir, R., Anderberg, P., & Rice, J. (2016). Negotiating independence, choice and autonomy: experiences of parents who coordinate personal assistance on behalf of their adult son or daughter. *Disability and Society*, 31(5), 604-621.

Brennan, C., Rice, J., Traustadóttir, R., & Anderberg, P. (2016). How can states ensure access to personal assistance when service delivery is decentralized? A multi-level analysis of Iceland, Norway and Sweden. *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research*, 20(1), 1-13.

Brennan, C. Rice, J., Traustadóttir, R., & Anderberg, P. (2016) Are cutbacks to personal assistance violating Sweden’s obligations under the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities? *Laws*, 5(2).

Bowling, J., Brennan, C., & Scalnon, V. (2013). 10 Years Closer to Freedom? Celebrating the 10th Anniversary of the Strasbourg Freedom Drive. Brussels. European Network on Independent Living.

Brennan, C., Linehan, C., O'Doherty, S., O'Malley, E., O'Rathaile, C., Roberts, W., Wolfe, M. (2012). *The Anti-Bullying Research Project*. National Institute for Intellectual Disability, Trinity College Dublin.

O'Brien, P, S Fitzgerald, C Brennan, J Murphy, P Curry, D Murphy, E Garcia, D Chadwick, N Lally, and L Mitchell. (2010). *Transition from Post-Primary for Students with Intellectual Disabilities*. Dublin: National Institute for Intellectual Disability, Trinity College Dublin.

Hughes, Z., & Brennan, C. (2010). *"The Wheel always Turns in Circles": Accessible Report of the A Story to Tell Lifestories Project*. National Institute for Intellectual Disability, Trinity College Dublin.

Teaching/ Training Experience

Seminar for a delegation of Romanian NGOs. Study visit to the University of Iceland.
University of Iceland, 10 November, 2016.

I represented the Centre for Disability Studies, University of Iceland at a training event for Romanian NGOs. The event was financed under the EEA Grants 2009-2014.

NUI Galway, Centre for Disability Law and Policy 6th International summer school.
NUI Galway, 17 June, 2014.

Introduction to core rights: Voice and Choice. Centre for Disability, Law and Policy.

JAG Association. Moving forward together: Advancing the right to live independently in the community for all disabled citizens.
Stockholm, Sweden, 27 April, 2013.

I organised a training event for the JAG association in Sweden and Finland. It was attended by NGOs, human rights lawyers and a representative of the Ombudsman.

Training in qualitative research methods for self-advocates from the National Anti-Bullying Advocacy Group (NAAG).
Trinity College Dublin, August 2011.

I provided training in inclusive research and qualitative research methods for members of the NAAG. National Institute for Intellectual Disability.

Conference Papers

Representing diverse viewpoints in research findings.
University of Iceland, Reykjavik. October, 2014.

Þjóðarspegillinn (Doctoral Conference).

New ways to understand personal assistance: lessons from Sweden. An accessible presentation
Milton Keynes, UK, 14 July, 2014

The Open University, Social History of Learning Disability Conference.

Multi-level governance of personal assistance: Implications for human rights.

Siegen, Germany, 27th March, 2014.

Planning Inclusive Communities Conference.

The CRPD, independent living and user-led personal assistance. Presented for the symposium: Implementing the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Turku, Finland, 30-31 May 2013.

Nordic Network on Disability Research (NNDR) International Conference.

Reforming personal assistance: Learning from the experiences of multiple stakeholders.

Oslo, Norway, 24-26 September 2013.

DREAM Network Event: European Assistive Technology Ecosystem.

**Professional
Development
and Training**

How to turn theory into policy, practice and action

Swiss Paraplegic Research Institute, Nottwill, Switzerland. 11th -14th February 2014.

European disability policy, eAccessibility and Universal design training.

Norwegian Social Research (NOVA), Oslo Norway. 24th -27th September 2013.

Legal research methodologies and European disability law.

Maastricht University, The Netherlands. 11th -15th February 2013

Project management, presentation skills, public speaking, networking, research grant writing, publishing, and presenting research findings to maximise impact.

Centre for Disability Studies, University of Leeds, United Kingdom. 13-18th February 2012.

Referees

Professor Seamus Hegarty (Mentor at the NIID). University of Warwick

seamus@seamushegarty.com

**Professor Rannveig Traustadóttir (PhD supervisor). Centre for Disability Studies,
University of Iceland rannvt@hi.is**

Dr. James Rice (PhD co-supervisor). School of Social Sciences, University of Iceland.

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