



**NEON Working Group
Addressing Differential Outcomes for Diverse Learners
Workshop**

Workshop Title: “Creating new narratives of disability; the role of education and co-production”

1st November 2023, 13.00 – 14.30 (online via MS Teams)

This working group serves to provide a space for addressing the challenges of establishing better outcomes for ethnically diverse learners in Higher Education and explores innovative approaches to developing good practice in this area by way of practical discussions, research/case study analysis, and peer support.

13.00-13.10 Welcome and Introductions (Karen Lipsedge, Kingston University, Chair)

13.10-13.40pm: Dr Paty Paliokosta, Associate Professor in Inclusive Education and Special Educational Needs, Chair of the Inclusion and Social Justice Special Interest Group, Kingston University London

Workshop Summary:

This presentation examines the transformative potential of education and co-production in shaping more inclusive and empowering narratives of disability. It explores the use of lived experiences to promote social justice, specifically through the use of the Disability Awareness Resource (DAR) [Fighting for our Rights – Kcil](#), an award-winning, co-produced resource that promotes the development and use of stories that remove focus on deficit, promote difference in a positive way, and encourage a narrative of activism. Other relevant resources, such as the oral history project that the Alliance for Inclusive Education (<https://howwasschool.allfie.org.uk>) are referred to and signposted.

Drawing on a range of theoretical perspectives and consultation data with educators and other stakeholders, the presentation explores ways of challenging traditional narratives of disability that often reinforce negative stereotypes and contribute to social exclusion. Examples of lived experiences through oral history are used to demonstrate the power of storytelling in changing the above narratives and promoting social justice in higher education (fields of education, health and social work), as well as schools and other settings across sectors. By sharing personal stories, a more nuanced and inclusive understanding of disability can be created,

one that emphasizes the strengths and resilience of disabled people rather than their deficits.

The presentation also posits the importance of co-production in creating resources like the DAR, or collaborative partnerships between people with disabilities and other stakeholders to ensure that new narratives are truly reflective of the diverse experiences and perspectives of the disability community. By involving individuals and educators, that identify as disabled, in the creation and development of these resources, these can promote a more collaborative and inclusive approach to disability activism, one that recognizes the diverse experiences and perspectives of disabled people. Examples from co-production and adaptation of this resource by disabled educators, a charity on independent living scheme and alumni students will be used to illuminate the above.

13.40-14.00 Breakout groups

The breakout session provides colleagues with the opportunity to come together to discuss the project and how they could incorporate and develop the strategies provided at their institution. In your discussions, please consider the following topics:

- Do you have any examples of co-production that you or colleagues have adopted and/or trialled at your university to create more inclusive and empowering narratives of disability?
- What do you think there are the benefits and challenges for creating more inclusive and empowering narratives for diverse learners?
- Why do you think it is useful to engage students as co-creators, and are there any challenges?
- Do you see activism as part of the education profession role?
- What top tips will you take with you to share/disseminate with your networks?

14.00-14.15pm: Feedback and Q&A

14.15-14.30pm: AOB and next meeting