



Disability Research Edinburgh Seminar

10.30-12.30, Tuesday 20th June |

LG.06 David Hume
Tower, George Square
Edinburgh

Disability and Higher Education

Elisabet Weedon 'Disabled' students in the UK, Sweden and Europe: who are they and what can we learn from published statistics?

Elisabet Weedon is Deputy Director and a Senior Research Fellow in the Centre for Research in Education Inclusion and Diversity at the Moray House School of Education, University of Edinburgh. Her main research areas are lifelong learning and additional support for learning with a focus on issues around equality and social justice.

This presentation focuses on official statistics and considers what they can tell us – and what else we need to know about access and outcomes for disabled students that the data cannot tell us about. It will provide a brief overview of the European context drawing on Eurostudent data before examining Swedish and UK data in more detail. Whilst recognising the value of data gathering it also questions the extent to the use of these data and raises questions such as:

- How do countries differ in terms of who is a 'disabled' student?
- How sound is the data gathering across Europe and in Sweden and the UK and is it comparable?

- How can we deal with heterogeneity within the disabled student population?
- What are the other social characteristics of disabled students?

Sheila Williams Disability perspectives from the Student Disability Service

Sheila Williams is a University of Edinburgh graduate and gained her postgraduate management qualification from the Open University.

She has worked in the field of disability for over 20 years, mainly in the Scottish voluntary sector, developing information services and policies promoting equality and user involvement, primarily with Capability Scotland and latterly with ENABLE Scotland. She has worked extensively in partnership with the Disability Rights Commission (now part of the Equality and Human Rights Commission) and on a range of Scottish Government working groups promoting equality and diversity issues.

Sheila became Director of Student Disability Services in August 2009, having been an Assistant Director at the Disability Office.

Her presentation will focus on the University's Disability Review and her work with the Disability Service.

[Disability Research Edinburgh](#) aspires to support researchers at all stages of their careers to share their research, and build their personal research networks across disciplines and institutions. It is a platform of communication, helping researchers and stakeholders to form future collaborations, develop funding applications, and hold knowledge exchange and public engagement activities. The members of Disability Research Edinburgh are committed to raising the profile of inter-disciplinary disability research within the University, contributing and collaborating towards the development of a growing disability research community beyond Edinburgh.

If your research includes a disability-related element, then Disability Research Edinburgh can provide access to the latest research ideas and methodologies in addition to perspectives from within the disability community itself. Remote participation is possible and encouraged. If you would like to get involved and subscribe to our mailing list please contact us at Disability.Research@ed.ac.uk and follow us on [Twitter @DisabEdin](#)