ABSTRACT - Dr Anne-Marie Callus

Subjects, Participants, Researchers - encounters of people with intellectual disability with research

This paper starts by reviewing aspects of the history of the role of people with intellectual disability in social science research, touching on their progress from being passive subjects of research, to becoming research participants, to being researchers through the methods of inclusive research (i.e. research procedures undertaken in collaboration with people with intellectual disability as co-researchers). The paper then presents and analyses aspects of the principles and practice of inclusive research. Different examples of research projects that are inclusive in nature are presented, with a focus on inclusive research projects that I have been involved in myself. This focus suggests that the aims of inclusive research can be realised progressively, with past achievements serving as building blocks for further inclusion of people with intellectual disability as co-researchers.

This inclusion presents its own ethical challenges and these are explored in the third part of this paper. The ethical issues explored will involve the role of non-disabled researchers in inclusive research; theorizing and analysis in the dissemination of findings from inclusive research projects; and positioning people with intellectual disability as vulnerable research subjects in research ethics clearance processes.