

Hello my name is Miro Griffiths. I am a Disability Studies Scholar and an Executive Editor of the International Journal of Disability and Social Justice. This series is called Meet the Author. The series provides an opportunity to learn more about the work ideas and interests of authors who have published through our journal. In this episode Julia Bahmer discusses their publication titled "Nothing About Us Without ... Who? Disability Rights Organisations, Representation and Collaborative Governance.

Let's start, please can you introduce yourself?

My name is Julia Bahner and I'm a Social Worker by training and currently working at Lund University in Sweden at the Department of Social Work.

What was the inspiration for writing this article?

So after my PhD finished, I embarked on this specific project that I wrote the article about. And it was about the Disability Movement in the western region of Sweden where I was living at the time and they had a group of Disabled People activists and people active in different Disability Rights Organisations and they wanted to work together with a researcher to explore the issues that they had in advocacy and collaboration with each other and so on. So basically they gave me this project to work on and then I wanted to write an international article about it to share the ideas and the insights from them internationally.

What was the most challenging part of writing this article?

To write for an international audience. Because I felt that at times, reviewers at other journals where it didn't get published (laughs), didn't really understand why this would be important for an international audience, but also in which ways the Swedish disability movement was different from for example the UK one. And they had difficulties understanding why the Swedish Disability Organisations were organised in this certain way or why they were advocating for certain issues. And so I guess I had to refine my arguments and really, yeah, show why this is really relevant to disability movements elsewhere as well.

What do you hope readers will take away from this article?

Find common ground and see that disability movements may differ in aims and scope and the way that they organise in different countries and maybe also in ideology. But that essentially there are so many common denominators and so many common issues that disability organisations are fighting for in similar ways. And to learn from each other's struggles and hopefully get some inspiration from the Swedish struggles and issues as well.

What are you currently working on that do you think would be of interest to Disability Studies scholars?

Actually following this project that I wrote article about. Me and two other colleagues who had worked also in other parts of the disability movement in Sweden, we are working on a new project now for three years. About the Swedish Disability Movement and issues around internal democracy digitalisation following the pandemic, which was really stressful for a lot of organisations. But also relating to survival of the disability movement because a lot of organisations feel that their membership base is growing older and older and they are having difficulties recruiting younger members and getting members active and engaged in boards and such. So it's a really interesting project that we are currently doing and I think we will publish about it in the journal in the future.

What are your hobbies and interests outside of Academia?

I love culture in all kinds of forms. Movies, museums, art, music so going to concerts and musicals and watching things.

I hope this episode was interesting, useful and enjoyable. Please remember all publications within the International Journal of Disability and Social Justice are open access. This means you can read them in full at no cost to you. Please visit the journal's website to find out more information about the Articles and issues we have published. You can search for the International Journal of Disability and Social Justice through online search engines such as Google or visit [www \[dot\] IJDSJ \[dot\] online](http://www.IJDSJ.online). You are welcome to subscribe to our channel, so you can be kept updated about newly released episodes and content. Until next time, Goodbye.