

## Announcement of doctoral theses

To cite this article: (2016) Announcement of doctoral theses, *Disability & Society*, 31:9, 1318-1319, DOI: [10.1080/09687599.2016.1249595](https://doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2016.1249595)

To link to this article: <https://doi.org/10.1080/09687599.2016.1249595>



Published online: 04 Nov 2016.



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## ANNOUNCEMENT OF DOCTORAL THESES

We have agreed to provide within the journal a list of completed theses in the field of Disability Studies. This will be an important resource for readers to follow through as well as providing the names of colleagues who are new entrants to the discipline.

### **This is an open invitation for theses completed from 2010 which fit with the Aims and Scope of Disability & Society.**

Please provide the following information:

Name of the author

Thesis title

The university awarding the degree (please state degree awarded and year)

A **100**-word synopsis of the thesis

Email address

Please forward this information to Helen Oliver, School of Education, University of Sheffield, 388 Glossop Road, Sheffield S10 2JA, UK.

Email: [h.j.oliver@sheffield.ac.uk](mailto:h.j.oliver@sheffield.ac.uk)

We will include this call for Doctoral Announcements in forthcoming issues of the journal.

### **Executive Editors**

**Name of author:** Joanne Watson

**Thesis title:** The right to supported decision making for people rarely heard

**University awarding degree:** Deakin University, Australia (PhD awarded in 2016)

Article 12 of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities challenges the use of substitute decision-making, strongly promoting supported decision-making as an alternative. For people with severe or profound intellectual disability, supported decision-making holds promise. However, consistent with their historical exclusion from many self-determination movements, tension exists regarding the use of this emerging paradigm for this rarely heard group. This thesis explores the use of a supported decision-making framework for people with severe or profound intellectual disability and their supporters, providing much-needed focus for practice and policy efforts in this area.  
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**Name of author:** Lynsey Parrott  
**Thesis title:** Communication participation of adult aided communicators with cerebral palsy: a discourse analytic approach.  
**University awarding degree:** University of Exeter, UK (PhD awarded in 2015)

The field of augmentative and alternative communication has evolved since the 1970s; consequently adults with cerebral palsy who are life-time users of augmentative and alternative communication prescribed as an intervention for their complex communication impairments participate in society. Ten adults, aged between 20 and 55 years, engaged in conversations about their unique life experiences. A qualitative research design was employed, using conversational-styled, semi-structured interviews. A discourse analytical approach was taken. Findings identified a number of ordinary interactional features and discourses. Participants shared memories and aspirations that included creating fulfilling daily lives. Recommendations for clinical practice are suggested that include interaction-focused interventions.

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**Name of the author:** Minerva Concepcion Rivas Velarde  
**Thesis title:** The Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and its implications for the health and wellbeing of indigenous peoples with disabilities  
**University awarding degree:** University of Sydney, Australia (PhD awarded in 2015)

This thesis explores how the expressed health needs of indigenous peoples with disabilities resonate with the mandate of Article 25 'Health' of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities. The perceptions of indigenous peoples with disabilities are investigated, regarding their access to, and expectations of, health care. A qualitative approach was taken to the research presented in this thesis, framing the research methodology on indigenous enquiry. An exploratory case-study approach was taken to compare three jurisdictions: Australia, Mexico and New Zealand. This thesis concludes that is necessary to build capacity and rights literacy across indigenous peoples with disabilities, particularly with respect to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities; alongside a legitimate redistribution of resources and decision-making in response to the expressed health needs of indigenous peoples with disabilities.

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