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Keynote: Exclusion vs belonging within diverse communities

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Abstract

A sense of belonging to a family or community is a core dimension of social inclusion for people with intellectual disabilities (ID). Recent decades have seen many positive changes in increasing the inclusion of people with ID and their options for belonging within diverse communities. Yet, all too often, children and adults with ID are still excluded from their communities and negative attitudes and discrimination remain everyday realities for many. Families and communities have the potential to be sources for 'good' and 'bad', for advocating and supporting inclusion or conversely for actively keeping persons with ID out. What factors promote inclusion and a sense of belonging will be considered, paying particular attention to the roles of culture and religion. Examples will be presented of efforts to work actively towards greater inclusion in different parts of the world and the role of self-advocates in such work.

Bio

Katrina Scior, BSc ClinPsyD PhD, is a clinical psychologist, trainer and researcher, with special expertise in the area of intellectual disability and stigma. She is Senior Lecturer in Clinical Psychology at University College London (UCL), Fellow of the British Psychological Society, Director of the UCL Unit for Stigma Research (UCLUS), and Co-Director of the Centre for Research in Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities (CIDDR).

She has published widely in the field of intellectual disability, mainly focused on stigma and inclusion, and mental health needs and service provision. Her research aims to increase our understanding of stigma in relation to intellectual disability, and to develop effective interventions to tackle both public and self-stigma in these areas. She is joint editor with Shirli Werner of *Stigma and Intellectual Disability: Stepping out from the Margins* (2016). Alongside her work to empower members of stigmatised groups to resist prejudice and discrimination

themselves, Katrina advises several national and international organisations, including Mencap and Special Olympics, to ensure that stigma is tackled at multiple levels.

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<https://www.ucl.ac.uk/pals/research/clinical-educational-and-health-psychology/research-groups/unit-stigma-research-uclus>

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