

## Ableism in Academia: 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2018

### **Background:**

Academia prides itself on productivity, innovation and rigour. It also purports to promote inclusivity and diversity.

However, as disabled, chronically ill, and neurodiverse academics know, ableism - discrimination in favour of able-bodied people - is endemic in academia. Rather than embracing difference as a reflection of wider society, academic ecosystems seek to normalise and homogenise particular ways of working and of being a scholar.

Against this background, this interactive symposium provides a forum to discuss the pressures and challenges faced by disabled, chronically ill, and neurodiverse academics. By engaging in debate around academic ableism, including how it intersects with gender, race, class, age, and sexuality, we aim to create a policy-facing manifesto that will challenge academia's existing notions of able-bodied perfection and provide impetus for change.

### **Event aims:**

...to be pioneering regarding inclusivity and accessibility

...to allow for debates and discussions

...to use personal experiences and theorisation for the creation of a manifesto for universities to use.

### **Event accessibility:**

The main event at UCL Institute of Education is free of charge for delegates. We are currently negotiating breakout events at the University of Kent, University of Manchester and Bloomsbury institutes.

For the main event we offer:

Livestream of the event.

Lecturecast of the event.

British Sign Language interpreters.

Captioning services.

A dedicated moodle space with information, discussion space, links to the livestream etc.

Option for presenters to join via skype and/or pre-recorded message.

On-day collaboration/questions from the "remote" floor via moodle and twitter.

An academic filmmaker will be video-recording – her edited film sequences and lecturecast videos of the day will be subsequently made available via moodle.

Food is gluten-free, dairy-free, vegan, soy-free.

Quiet room near the main conference room with pillows, blankets, eye patches, etc.

### Sponsors and Supporters:

UCL (in particular: UCL Institute of Education, UCL GDI hub, UCL HR)  
University of Kent  
The University of Nottingham  
University of Leeds  
Chronically Academic  
National Association of Disabled Staff Networks



The University of Nottingham

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### Confirmed speakers:

The keynote speaker is Dr Fiona Kumari Campbell (University of Dundee), author of *Contours of Ableism*.

Prof Michael Arthur (UCL), President and Provost of UCL, will close the day with reflections and thoughts about ways forward.

We have presentations from...

Jeanne	BARCZEWSKA	Senior Lecturer	University of Northampton
Oliver	DADDOW	Assistant Professor	University of Nottingham
Jason	DAVIES	Senior Teaching Fellow	UCL
Stephen	D'EVELYN		University of Bristol
Carla	FINESILVER	Lecturer	King's College London
Ian	GENT	Professor	University of St Andrews
Elisabeth	GRIFFITHS	Principal Lecturer	Northumbria University Newcastle
Rosalind	JANSSEN	Lecturer	UCL Institute of Education
Thomas	KADOR	Teaching Fellow	UCL
Gillian	LOOMES	PhD candidate	University of York
Ben	LUNN	Composer	
Nicola	MARTIN	Head of Research, Higher Degrees and Student Experience	London South Bank University
Victoria	MASON-ANGELOW	Research Associate	University of Bristol
Wendy	MERCHANT	Research Associate	University of Bristol
Jennifer	RODE	Senior Lecturer	UCL Institute of Education
Mikael	VEJDEMO-JOHANSSON	Assistant Professor	CUNY College of Staten Island

## Programme

### 10.00 – 10.10: Welcome and introduction

Stuart MOORE

### 10.10 – 10.50: Keynote:

Fiona KUMARI-CAMPBELL The Violence of Technicism: Ableism as Humiliation and Degrading Treatment

### 10.50 – 11.10: Invited speaker:

Nicola MARTIN The Leadership Foundation for Higher Education research

### 11.10 – 11.20: Comfort break

### 11.20 – 12.20: Accepted submissions:

Wendy	MERCHANT	Excellence, Rigor and Resilience
Rosalind	JANSSEN	Living with microscopic colitis
Gillian	LOOMES	The questioning aspie
Ian	GENT	Depressed academics
Carla	FINESILVER	Invisible disability, unacknowledged diversity

### 12.20 – 1.30: Lunch break

### 1.30 – 3.00: Accepted submissions:

Thomas	KADOR	Academics who can't read (remote)
Ben	LUNN	Ableism in Music Academicism (remote)
Jeanne	BARCZEWSKA	Teaching voice (remote?)
Oliver	DADDOW	Colour blindness and accessibility in academia
Jennifer	RODE	Greyhound racing and the academy
		Invisible disabilities, disclosure and being an 'insider' in disability research
Elisabeth	GRIFFITHS	
Jason	DAVIES	Disabling grief in academia

### 3.00 – 3.20: Comfort break

### 3.20 – 4.30: Workshop

### 4.30: Closing words

Michael ARTHUR