Name: Patricia McCarthy

Supervisor: Dr Michael Shevlin

Research topic: The educational and life opportunities of people who are blind and vision impaired: Their stories.

Abstract: There has been a history of exclusion and missed opportunities among vision impaired people. This research seeks to give voice to people who are visually impaired/blind in regards to their education and employment/unemployment experiences. There has been a dearth of participation among people with disabilities either as researchers or as participants in their own right. Methodologically a qualitative, life history approach aims to address this imbalance resulting in research which represents the true experiences of people who are visually impaired/blind. My ontological position as a disabled researcher has been central to the development of this research.