Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities

Research & Dissemination Report 2023

www.tcd.ie/TCPID

Trinity College Dublin
Coláiste na Tríonóide, Baile Átha Cliath
The University of Dublin

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Sharing our experience, knowledge and research with all stakeholders in our students' education and employment is at the core of what we do, set against the backdrop of a rich academic and research environment in the School of Education and Trinity College Dublin.

Collaboration with universities from around the world is welcomed in TCPID. We have engaged with universities around Europe, the United States, Australia and South America during 2023.

Another packed house for the ever popular annual Lecture by TCPID graduates to future second level school teachers. Describing their experiences of education and what it means to feel included.

Prof. Michael Shevlin, Director TCPID presenting at the Inclusion Dialogue book launch in 2023.

We disseminate our research and practices with the aim of creating the momentum for change in education to a more inclusive and equitable place for students with intellectual disabilities.

This publication by our Senior Occupational Therapist, Barbara Ringwood and our Pathways Coordinator Marie Devitt provides a comprehensive guide for potential business partners on the process involved in employing a TCPID graduate.

Their experience in TCPID over the past six years has informed this publication and lays out clearly the commitment required and supports available for businesses seeking to employ a person with an intellectual disability.

Click here or on the image to access this publication.

Research on post-secondary training for individuals with intellectual disabilities has generally focused on programmess, with little consideration of the structures and mechanisms that give rise to them. This article adopts a critical realist perspective to comparatively analyse and theorise about the contextual structures contributing to the introduction of post-secondary training programmess in universities for individuals with intellectual disabilities.
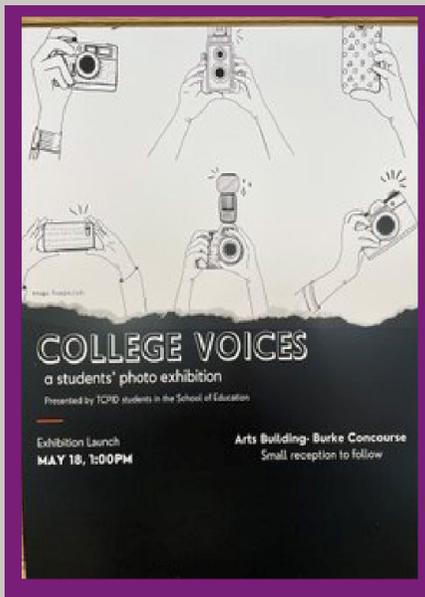
TCPID worked in collaboration with Torrens University, Melbourne and Universidad Andres Bello, Santiago, Chile on this research which investigates the preconditions that have contributed to the development and growth of postsecondary training programmess for individuals with intellectual disabilities, in three universities.

Click here to access this publication.

Research & Funding

During 2023 Dr. Donatella Camedda, ASIAP Course Coordinator, undertook a Photovoice Research Project within TCPID. The project aimed to document the experience of students with intellectual disabilities attending Trinity college through participatory photography (Photovoice). Working with a visiting academic from Salzburg, Dr. Sabine Harter-Reiter, the students were introduced to the model of 'inclusive research' involving people with an intellectual disability as active participants in the generation of research ideas and the conducting of that research. This work captured the student voice around their experience of inclusivity in Trinity College. In May the students Showcased the Photovoice project to the wider community within and beyond Trinity College.

College Voices - Photovoice Exhibition

Students identified three themes that they related to;
Making New Friends, Getting a Job, and Achieving Your Goals

Following on from the success of this project a new photovoice project called Breaking Barriers' will take place during the Hilary Term of 2024. Led by Donatella Camedda this research has received funding from the Trinity's TRiSS Academic Research Fellowship.

Research & Funding

Research Activities Planned for Hilary Term 2024

Photovoice Project – Breaking Barriers
A continuation of the successful photovoice project in 2023. This funded project aims to support the empowerment and self-advocacy of students with intellectual disabilities. The students will become co-researchers to investigate and showcase their experiences as College students in Trinity through Photovoice, a visual participatory research methodology whereby participants take photographs to help document, reflect upon, and communicate issues of concern while stimulating social change.

Learner Advocates: Co-Designing Disability Awareness in Higher Education
This research adopts a Case Study design, offering an in-depth exploration of the experiences of 2nd-year ASIAP students at TCPID as they undertake the disability rights module and creative assessment method culminating in a Disability Rights event planned and organised by the students. Students will act as co-designers, contributing to the formulation of research questions and the subsequent analysis.

Physical Activity and Cognitive Function

This research has received funding from the Arts and Social Sciences Benefactions Fund in Trinity and aims to explore the impact of physical activity on cognitive function among students with intellectual disabilities. Conducted over a 10 week period it will work in tandem with their Sport / Health sciences module and take place in the Sports Centre.

Learning Management Systems

This research project aims to explore the benefits and challenges of the current Learning Management Systems for students with ID in Trinity College Dublin. Aiming to address a literature gap on the challenges in using such platforms as Blackboard and Teams, the research will be conducted with lecturing staff, students and IT staff.

Programme for Access to Higher Educaton - Path4

TCPID, in collaboration with Disability Services at Trinity College, played a pivotal role in Phase 1 of the programme for access to higher education 'Path4' project. Funded by the Department of Further and Higher Education, Innovation, Research and Science, this initiative focused on enhancing the higher education experience for students with disabilities by researching crucial aspects and implementing changes based on findings. The project encompassed comprehensive strands such as Student Journey Mapping, a thorough evaluation of the ASIAP program, provision of seed funding to develop inclusive modules within various university schools for students with an intellectual disability, and the creation of accessible resources. Together, these efforts aim to create a more inclusive and supportive environment for students with disabilities pursuing higher education at Trinity College.

Irish Research Council New Foundations Awards.

Synergies in Shaping Inclusive Educational Reform in the Global North and South: Policymakers and Academics in Ireland and South Africa

Leading academics from the School of Education and TCPID in Trinity College and the University of Capetown in South Africa will explore the extent to which academia and policymakers share knowledge in inclusive education policy development. The project will involve a three-day visit by a researcher from the University of Cape Town and government officials from the Western Cape Education Department, including a research/policy brokerage event with relevant stakeholders from the Global North-South. This research will commence early 2024 with the three day event taking place in April in Trinity College.

'Promoting Education and Employment Resources for People with Intellectual Disabilities in Ireland'

This project 'Promoting Education and Employment Resources for People with Intellectual Disabilities in Ireland' will be conducted in collaboration with civil society partner Inclusion Ireland and other partners from the National Consortium on Inclusion (TCPID, Inclusion Ireland, Walk, Coláiste Íde).

The Trinity Research Doctorate Awards

Trinity Research Doctorate Awards PI-based 2023-2024.

Programme Coordinator for the ASIAP programme Dr. Donatella Camedda was awarded the prestigious and highly competitive Trinity Research Doctorate Award during 2023. This consists of 4-year funding to recruit a PhD student who will work on her project called INSIDE - INclusion of Students with Intellectual Disabilities in Higher Education. Donatella is one of only seven awardees for this strand of the funding (PI-based) across College and the first in to be awarded to the School of Education. Dr Camedda is currently recruiting for a candidate to start this project in March 2024.

British Journal of Learning Disabilities - Special Edition

Dr Donatella Camedda will be lead guest editor for a special edition of the British Journal of Learning Disabilities 'People with learning disabilities working or studying in higher education institutions' . This special issue will be published in 2025 and is currently accepting abstracts.

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Conferences & Dissemination 2023

January — Marie Devitt, Sadbh Feehan and Hugo MacNeill presented about the TCPID and inclusive employment at the Design Leaders conference in the Lighthouse Cinema on January 26th. The conference was organised by Design Skillsnet with the overall theme of Designing for Good, Designing for JOY and changing the World.

March — Launch of 'Inclusion Dialogue' Book and Seminar AHEAD Conference – Student Panel discussion and presentation by Emer Murphy Occupational Therapist, TCPID

Adult Education Services Presentation. Presentation by Des Aston on ASIAP Programme

April — Educational Studies Ireland Conference, Belfast. Presentation by Donatella Camedda and Giampiero Trantino on Teachers' attitudes towards inclusive education.

Disability Rights Event, Trinity College Dublin, entitled 'Pathways from Education to Employment.' Organised by 2nd year students, facilitated by Dr. Vivian Rath and Des Aston.

HEA & Simon Harris consultation session to inform Path4 funding, DCU. Graduates TCPID graduates and contributed.

May — Sci-fest. Student research projects and presentation in association with Abbot Ireland and Sci-fest.

Photovoice Project Exhibition. Curated by Dr. Donatella Camedda and ASIAP 1st year students.

'Innovations in Intellectual Disability Practice' – OT IDAG study day presentation on 'The role of Occupational Therapists working in the Trinity Centre for People with Intellectual Disabilities' by Barbara Ringwood and Emer Murphy

June — TCPID ambassador Hugo MacNeill speaks to Miriam O'Callaghan about the work of Trinity and TCPID.

Marie Devitt, Sadbh Feehan and Hugo MacNeill presented to Inclusion Europe about the TCPID Business Partners and Graduate Internship programmes. Co-chaired by Des Aston, TCPID.

Summer School. 20 students plus 4 students from Clemson State University, USA attend a three day summer school in TCPID.

The British Academy – Conference 'Lessons of resilience and social inclusion from the Covid-19 pandemic', presentation by Barbara Ringwood on the experiences of digital peer engagement and the social expectations of students with intellectual disabilities.

August — European Educational Research Association Conference, Glasgow, Scotland. Dr Donatella Camedda busy presenting on Teachers' attitudes towards inclusive education / Photovoice Research Project and representing Ireland in the 10-country panel discussion.

Scholarship Award Event. Launched by Provost Linda Doyle. Two new scholarships announced; the Timothy Dinka Memorial Scholarship in memory of our student and a new Smurfit Kappa Scholarship. Also celebrating the existing Margaret McLoughlin Scholarship and the McLoughlin family for their years of support in memory of their Margaret.

October — Learning Without Limits. Collaboration with Rethink Ireland and launched by Minister Simon Harris celebrating 20 years of TCPID. 'Conversation Salons' with current and past students reflecting on their university and employment experiences as people with an intellectual disability. Click here for RTE news bulletin. Conference; Institute of International and European Affairs. Keynote speech delivered by Sadbh Feehan and presentation by Prof. Michael Shevlin.

November — Trinity College Open Day. ASIAP stand attended by Des Aston, Pathways Coordinator and TCPID graduates Sadbh Feehan and Heather Marshall.

December — Annual Business Partners Meeting. Over 40 business partners met for the morning to share knowledge and best practice. Presentation by the Occupational Therapy team on communication and task assignment.

Inclusion Ireland Conference. 'Access to Your Community' In association with TCPID.

Minister Simon Harris, Stephen Ryan and Niamh Bidulph at 'Learning without Limits!' A celebration of 20 years of TCPID in association with Rethink Ireland

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Dissemination 2023

Engaging with the community to share and learn is an integral part of our work. Using these platforms we can share our research, advocate for our students and graduates and learn of new developments in the world of inclusive education and employment.

ahead
creating inclusive environments in education and employment for people with disabilities

Expanding our knowledge and skills. Connecting with others who advocate inclusive education and employment.

ESAI

Sharing, collaborating, working with all stakeholders in our student's university experience

inclusion europe

Mentors Workplace Experience Mentors with TCPID Graduate

Emer Murphy
Occupational Th
Trinity Centre fo
Intellectual Disa

The McLoughlin and Dinka families with Provost Linda Doyle at the launch of the new Scholarships in August 2023. A beautiful portrait of Timothy Dinka by Dr. John Kubiak, Teaching and Learning Officer, TCPID was presented to the family.

Graduate Niamh Biddulph With Des Aston TCPID at the 'What Next' Conference in Sligo 2023

@IDTCD

Dissemination

TCPID Summer School

Our summer school was back in 2023 and was attended by 20 students along with four visiting students from Clemson State University in the US. The three day school took in a range of activities based in TCPID, The School of Education in the Arts Block and the Sports Centre. The school is a great opportunity for people with an intellectual disability to experience a few days of life on campus with the emphasis very much on fun and inclusion.

Sci Fest

Each May our second year students engage in the fantastic Sci Fest initiative. Working with one of our business partners, Abbot, the students devise, design and carry out their research projects along with their Abbot mentor over the course of the month. This culminates in a high profile exhibition event in Regent House where the students have an opportunity to display and present their projects to staff, students, family and the general public. It is a great showcase of the work of TCPID and our students.

Our best ambassadors - our graduates! Sadbh and Heather at the TCPID stand during Trinity's Open Day in November

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Visiting Academics

We were delighted to host three visiting academics during 2023
Dr. Sabine Harter-Reiter, University of Salzburg
Prof. Judith McKenzie, Capetown University
Korkor Ofoe, PhD Candidate, University of Ghana

Visiting Academics

We look forward to welcoming two visiting scholars in 2024
Prof. Joe Ryan who will visit us on a Fulbright Scholarship from Clemson University, USA
Gilda Biagotti a PhD candidate from the University of Seville, Spain

Dr. Sabine Harter-Reiter

Korkor Ofoe

Prof Judith McKenzie

Dr Harter-Reiter joined the team for a period of three months in Hilary term 2023. A lecturer in the University of Education in Salzburg, Austria she was visiting as part of the Erasmus Mobility Fund. While here Sabine worked on the photovoice project with our first year students and hosted the resulting exhibition in Salzburg this December.

Korkor Ofoe visited during Hilary Term 2023 as part of the Coimbra Programme. A student of the University of Ghana, Korkor has a particular interest in inclusive education and access to higher education for students with disabilities. Her research stay allowed her to engage with all members of the team and we look forward to further collaboration in the future.

Judith McKenzie visited during Hilary term 2023. Judith has worked in the field of inclusive education for over 20 years at all levels of the education system and published on the topic. While she was with TCPID Judy held a working group of the TCPID team, the IASSIDD inclusive education SIRG committee and members of the IDEA team from the University of Cape Town with a view to producing a conceptual paper to present at the IASSIDD conference in 2024.

During 2023 we hosted visits for delegations from the Czech Republic (left) and The Netherlands (right), seeking to learn about our innovative programme for students with intellectual disabilities.