



University of
Sheffield

iHuman

Critical
Disability
Studies

How the WAARC project has collaborated with DPOs

waarc
WELLCOME ANTI-ABLEIST
RESEARCH CULTURES



Logos of University of Sheffield, iHuman,
Critical Disability Studies, WAARC,
Wellcome Trust and link to webpage for
WAARC



**Logos of all the
DPO partners**



Anti-ableist research necessitates working closely with Disabled People's Organisations (DPOs)

Priority Area 1 - Anti-Ableist Environments

Researcher: Dr Armineh Soorenian
Academic lead: Dr Kirsty Liddiard



Activities:

- Analysing and writing up about interviews with disabled academics and professional services staff.
- Leading NADSN's Access to Work (AtW) Users' subgroup and involvement with the academic board of AtW Collective.

Priority Area 1 - Anti-Ableist Environments

Emerging Headlines:

- Creating a culture of support and acceptance encourages disabled staff to disclose their impairments.
- We must ensure reasonable adjustments match the reality of our participants' support needs.
- Access to Work crisis is in crisis in the sector and needs urgent attention.

Priority Area 2 - Anti-Ableist Developments

Researcher: Dr Nikita Hayden

Academic lead: Dr Lauren White

Activities:



- Organising and showcasing accessible events
- Developing an inclusive methods course aimed at doctoral students

Priority Area 2 - Anti-Ableist Developments

Emerging Headlines:

- Foregrounding access in all university research events makes events better for everyone.
- Embedding inclusive methods into research creates better models of co-production.
- Both require adequate costing and sector support.

Priority Area 3 - Collaborative Inquiry

Researcher: Dr Sophie Phillips

Academic lead: Prof Dan Goodley



Activities include:

- A workshop that analysed the Researchers Concordat with disabled researchers in mind.
- We funded and support 4 x Collaborative projects of academics and DPOs.

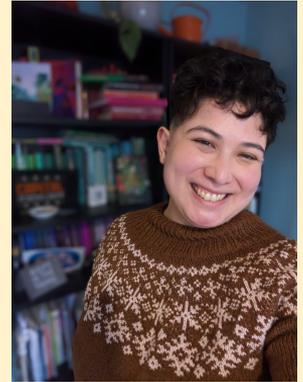
Priority Area 3 - Collaborative Inquiry

Emerging Headlines:

- Research quality is enhanced by collaboration with DPOs
- The Researcher Concordat can be re-centred to support the careers of disabled researchers.
- University research can and should be aligned with the aims of DPOs.

Cross Cutting/Knowledge Exchange

Researcher: Dr Élaina Gauthier-Mamaril
Academic lead: Dr Antonios Ktenidis



Current Activities:

- Podcast '[Crippling Research Culture](#)' available
- 'Dreaming up a Disability Inclusive Workplace' - webinar series (with Quiplash CIC)

WAARC and Wellcome logos



Cross Cutting/Knowledge Exchange

Emerging headlines

- A need to mainstreaming of awareness of existing anti-ableist policies (e.g. disability passport)
- Raise literacy of AtW support and standard support across faculties and schools
- Simplify contracts and share intellectual property with non-academic organisations

A Deeper Dive into the Collaborative Projects

The Projects

- Open Scholarship, with Extant
 - Making Bills More Accessible, with Our Vision Our Future
 - Creating a Disabled People's Organisation for Historians, with BuDS
 - Bringing the University to Artists with a Learning Disability, with The Professors
- Each project is conducted with a Disabled People's Organisation and has an access fund.

Considerations From The Researchers

- Time
- Researcher Needs
- Resources
- Institutional Support
- Expectations

End of Project Event



WAARC
Collaborative Projects
Online Festival

Showcasing four research projects co-produced with
Disabled People's Organisations.

Monday 20th April 2026
12noon-3pm UK time


University of
Sheffield
waarc
WELCOME ANTI-ALIST
RESEARCH CULTURES


PRN@TUoS
THE PARTICIPATORY
RESEARCH NETWORK AT
THE UNIVERSITY OF
SHEFFIELD


Labels
are for
Jars, not
People!
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SHEFFIELD
VOICES


W
wellcome

WAARC Collaborative Projects Online Festival

- Monday 20th April 2026, 12noon - 3pm
- Presentations from each project

<https://www.tickettailor.com/events/universityofsheffield2/2021956>

Further Information

- <https://sheffield.ac.uk/ihuman/waarc>