

Dr Miro Griffiths MBE

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WORK EXPERIENCE

Leverhulme Early Career Research Fellow - October 2020 – Present

University of Leeds - <https://essl.leeds.ac.uk/sociology/staff/1040/miro-griffiths>

Current responsibilities:

- Principal Investigator on research project: Disability Activism in Europe: Young Disabled Activist's Views and Experiences (2020 – 2023)
- Guest Lecturer
- Dissertation and Thesis Supervision
- Secretary to the Centre for Disability Studies
- Member on Research Ethics Committee for the Faculties of Business, Environment and Social Sciences
- Editor to the International Journal of Disability and Social Justice
- Peer Reviewer for Arts and Humanities Research Council
- External Examiner at University of Central Lancashire
- Programme Consultant – Lancaster University
- Adviser to Trust for London – London Poverty Profile

Teaching Fellow - September 2018 – October 2020

University of Leeds - <https://essl.leeds.ac.uk/sociology/staff/1040/miro-griffiths>

Current responsibilities:

- Module Convenor – Disability Theory and Research Methods; Social Policy Debates; Social Policy Analysis
- Dissertation and Thesis Supervision
- Secretary to the Centre for Disability Studies
- Member on Research Ethics Committee for the Faculties of Business, Environment and Social Sciences
- Editor to the International Journal of Disability and Social Justice
- Peer Reviewer for Arts and Humanities Research Council
- External Examiner at University of Central Lancashire
- Programme Consultant – Lancaster University
- Adviser to Trust for London – London Poverty Profile

Disability Rights Consultant – March 2007 – Present

Miro Consultancy - www.miroconsultancy.com
Wirral, Merseyside

Current Responsibilities:

- European Network on Independent Living Project/Policy Advisor – Work to expand awareness of ENIL's work in the European Parliament, coordinate development of documentation and deliver trainings and seminars across Europe, and voice concerns and expectations of disabled people and promote Independent Living values.
- Government Advisor – Working closely to ensure people who use services are included in the design, delivery and development of services and policies, advise on engagement strategies and work on short and long term programmes of social and health care, and access to employment.
- Equality and Human Rights Commission – providing constructive challenge to the EHRC executive, with clear and evidence-based advice; supporting the EHRC's approach to engaging with stakeholders; providing intelligence on emerging issues and issues of concern relating to disability, to inform the EHRC's work programme and approach; and expert advice to the EHRC's UN Treaty monitoring function.
- Visiting Lecturer – University of Liverpool; Liverpool John Moores University; University of Chester; and Manchester Metropolitan University.
- British Council – sit on the advisory panel for disability issues within the British Council; provide interviews and think pieces for British Council's global audience; work on international projects and attend events on sharing good practice.

- National Co-production Advisory Group Co-production Member (Think Local, Act Personal) – Provide presentations on personalised care and support to local authorities, commissioners and government departments; sit on advisory boards within Social Care in Excellence and promote TLAP work priorities
- Adviser to Advance HE

Previous Work:

- European Network on Independent Living – Develop toolkits and learning programmes on ‘Disability and Independent Living’; facilitate weeklong study sessions for young disabled people from across Europe and attend the Freedom Drive in Strasbourg to promote ENIL’s work
- Advisor to the Qualification and Curriculum Authority – improved access for disabled learners in school and further education
- Advisor for the Department of Work and Pensions Strategic Equality Panel – worked on issues to do with disabled people finding and remaining in ‘meaningful employment’
- Chair of Choices4U – chaired a grant scheme, commissioned by Public Service Works, and provided mentoring to young disabled people with successful applications
- Consultant for Council of Disabled Children – provided keynote speeches and worked with officials, staff and young people to prioritise work within the organisation

Deputy Chair: December 2006 – September 2013

Equality 2025 - <http://odi.dwp.gov.uk/equality-2025/index.php>
Westminster, London

I have completed two terms as a member of Equality 2025; joining as North West Representative when it was initially launched, I became Deputy Chair midway through my second term. I also represented the United Kingdom at the signing ceremony for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.

Responsibilities:

- Liaise with Government departments and officials on key policy areas; this includes sitting on various boards and representing Equality 2025 at meetings with officials and ministers, including: Social Legacy Delivery Board for the Olympic and Paralympic Games
- Lead on policy responses and write reports on behalf of the group
- Support the Chair and members of Equality 2025
- Chair meetings and interview panels
- During my first term, I was responsible for setting up consultation events with disabled people and their organisations

EDUCATION

Doctor of Philosophy, Sociology – January 2015 – December 2018

Liverpool John Moores University

- The PhD is investigating the following research question: What are the experiences of young disabled people when presented with opportunities to become active in promoting disability rights, leading campaigns and challenging current agendas?
- Graduate Teaching Assistant role, which includes leading seminars and lectures, lecturing, marking assignments and providing continual support to undergraduate students

Master of Arts, Disability Studies – September 2010 – December 2012

University of Leeds

- Dissertation was titled: “The Responsibility of Direct Payments: Exploratory Research to Examine How Young Disabled People Manage Their Care”
- Wrote academic essays in three areas: Social Model Thinking, Access to Leisure and Relationships, Portrayal of Disability in the Media

Bachelor of Science (Hons) 2:1, Psychology - September 2007 - July 2010

University of Liverpool

- Dissertation was titled: “Self Perception: How Do Disabled Students Value Themselves?”
- Completed a placement in Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services; presented to fellow students and professors; worked alone and in groups on research topics

A-Levels, September 2005 – July 2007

Birkenhead Sixth Form College

Birkenhead, Wirral

Communication Studies: B
Film Studies: B
Psychology: C

GCSE's, September 2000 – July 2005

Woodchurch High School
Birkenhead, Wirral

Grades: A – C

RESEARCH GRANTS

- Leverhulme Trust (Early Career Fellowship) – Disability Activism in Europe: Young Disabled Activist's Views and Experiences (2020- 2023). [Principal Investigator]
- Disability Research on Independent Living and Learning - Reasonable Adjustments and Their Effectiveness in Education and Training Post Equality Act 2010 (2018-2019). [Co-Supervisor]
- Council of Europe (Directorate General of Democracy) - Study Session Programme: Active Citizenship and Political Participation of Young Disabled People (2017-2018). [Co-Principal Lead]
- European Commission (Justice and Consumers) - Building Capacity to Monitor Hate Crime and Hate Speech through Online Training (2017-2018). [Co-Investigator]
- European Commission (Social Affairs) – Three Year Framework Partnership Agreement (2014-2018). [Co-Principal Investigator on Disability Hate Crime; Analysis on Commission Workplan; Building Coalitions and Partnerships]
- Council of Europe (Directorate General of Democracy) - Study Session Programme: Sexuality and Relationships as Integral to Disabled People's Social Inclusion (2015-2016). [Co-Principal Lead]
- European Commission (Lifelong Learning Programme) - European Core Learning Outcomes for Integration of Support and Housing (2014-2015). [Co-Principal Investigator]
- Council of Europe (Directorate General of Democracy) - Study Session Programme: Future Leaders of the Independent Living Movement (2011-2012). [Co-Principal Lead]
- Erasmus Plus (Leonardo) - Professional Partnership for Inclusive Education (2010-2012). [Co-Investigator]

PUBLICATIONS

Journal Articles

- Olsen J, Griffiths M, Soorenian A, Porter R. 2020. Reporting from the Margins: Disabled Academics Reflections on Higher Education. *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research*. 22(1), pp. 265-274.

Book Chapters

- Griffiths, M. 2020. Disability. In: Ellison, N. and Haux, T. eds. *Handbook on Society and Social Policy*. Cheltenham: Edward Elgar.
- Griffiths, M. 2019. These Days Are Ours: Young Disabled People's Experiences of Activism and Participation in Social Movements. In: Berghs, M., Chataika, T. and El-Lahib, Y. eds. *Routledge Handbook of Disability Activism*. Abingdon: Routledge.

Expert/Advisory Reports

- Griffiths, M. 2016. *Disability Hate Crime Survey: Brief Analysis of the Survey Findings*. Brussels: European Network on Independent Living.
- Griffiths, M. 2015. *In Control Youth - Vision and Strategy*. London: In Control.
- Griffiths, M. 2014. *Recommendations to the New Disability Intergroup at the European Parliament*. Brussels: European Network on Independent Living.
- Griffiths, M. 2014. *Guide on Member States Engagement with Disabled People*. Brussels: European Network on Independent Living.
- Griffiths, M. 2014. *Disability Hate Crime*. Brussels: European Network on Independent Living.
- Griffiths, M. 2014. *2014 Manifesto - Key Demands for Disability Rights*. Brussels: European Network on Independent Living.
- Todd, Z., Griffiths, M., Agustsdottir, E., Kichashki, P. and Maraz, D. 2012. *Young People with Disabilities As Future Leaders of the Independent Living Movement*. Brussels: European Network on Independent Living.

Magazine and Blog Articles

- Griffiths, M. 2018. UK Disabled People Face Human Catastrophe. *Chartist*, 291. p.13-14.
- Griffiths, M. 2017. Segregation is a choice, not an accident. *Discover Society* [Online], DS47. Available From: <https://discoversociety.org/2017/08/02/viewpoint-segregation-is-a-choice-not-an-accident/>
- Griffiths, M. 2017. Are the Times Changing?. 11th August. *History of Place* [Online]. Available from: <http://historyof.place/are-the-times-changing/>
- Griffiths, M. 2016. "United" Kingdom and the EU: What happens Next for Disabled Students?. 11th July. *Alliance for Inclusive Education* [Online]. Available from: <https://www.allfie.org.uk/news/blog/united-kingdom-and-the-eu-what-happens-next-for-disabled-students/>

PERSONAL INTERESTS AND ACHIEVEMENTS

- Awarded Member of the Order of the British Empire (MBE) in the Queen's Birthday Honours List 2014
- * Represented the United Kingdom at the signing ceremony for the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in New York, 2007
- Presented at the 5th International Human Rights Forum in Nantes, France – topic was: "Inclusive Education for Disabled Students"
- * Considered one of the most influential disabled people in Britain, according to the Disability News Service
- Co-designed and facilitated a weeklong study session for international young disabled people with Council of Europe on the topic of: Independent Living and Youth Empowerment (2012), Disability and Sexuality (2016) and Political Participation (2018)
- Member to the Equality and Human Rights Commission Disability Advisory Committee (2018-present).
- Member of the Collective Action and Support Network (2018-present)
- * Invited Member of the LUDI Network (2017-2018)
- * Royal Society of Arts (RSA) Invited Fellow (2017/2018)
- * Member of the Liverpool City Region Fairness and Social Justice Advisory Board (2017-present)
- * Member of the Independent Living Research Network (2016-present)
- * Trustee role at Alliance for Inclusive Education (2013-present)
- Board member for DaDaFest (2016-present)
- * Board member of Independent Living Institute, Sweden (2019-present)
- * Board member of Cheshire Centre for Independent Living (2020-present)
- * Board member of ENIL 2013-2015 and ENIL Youth Board [Founding Member] (2015-2017)
- Trustee role at the Neuromuscular Centre, Winsford (2016-2018)
- * Chaired the User Group at the national charity: Whizz-Kidz (2005-2007)
- Successful application for a Millennium Award, which led to the development of a concept for a computer game that promoted disability awareness (worked in collaboration with Sony Playstation Europe)
- * Keen interest in football, with a season ticket for Wigan Athletic Football Club
- Qualified football referee
- * Enjoy gaming and writing fictional short stories