

UQ Winter Research Project Description

Project title:	The effectiveness of digital story telling as a tool for change: Learning about inclusive policies and practices from people with disabilities
Project duration:	4 weeks
Description:	This inclusive action research project has explored the use of digital story telling as a tool for change (i.e. a method of transformational learning and community mobilisation) for a group of self-advocates with intellectual disability. The project has conducted a number of workshops with co-researchers with an intellectual disability, human service/social work/film and television students, advocacy support staff and academics from University of Queensland and Griffith University. The project to-date has showcased a number of individual and group digital stories that promote more inclusive policies and practices for people with intellectual disability. The study is now at the stage of evaluating the practice approaches used to facilitate the creation and dissemination of the digital stories. The student researcher will be involved in transcription of one focus group with storytellers and thematic analysis of field notes and focus group discussions with workshop facilitators and storytellers. There may also be an opportunity for member-checking with self-advocates if time permits.
Expected outcomes and deliverables:	This project provides opportunities for a student to develop skills in research transcription, qualitative data analysis and the use of NVivo qualitative software. The student will develop a nuanced understanding of the processes of inclusive research with people with an intellectual disability and arts-based research methodology. Depending on the level of contribution by the student, there is an opportunity to be a co-author on publications that arise from the study. It is anticipated that over time a number of research articles will be published in journals such as <i>British Journal of Learning Disabilities</i> and <i>Disability and Society</i> .
Suitable for:	UQ enrolled social work student in their 3rd year of study. This is a unique opportunity for students entering the Bachelor of Social Work Honours programme to apply skills in qualitative data analysis. The successful candidate will need to be able to demonstrate the ability to work independently, a willingness to learn how to use computer analysis software, and a respectful approach to working with people with a disability.
Primary Supervisor:	Dr. Kathy Ellem, Senior Lecturer, School of Nursing Midwifery and Social Work
Further info:	Please contact the primary supervisor via email: k.ellem@uq.edu.au