

# Clinical Psychology and people with disabilities

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## Background

In the current psychology curriculum there is little attention for people with disabilities who present as patients in the healthcare system. Hence, students face difficulties when prompted to consider how psychological assessments, research instruments and therapeutic processes may require adjustment to support this patient group.

## Objectives

Aim 1: To facilitate the **transfer from theory to practice** regarding the specific needs of people with disabilities and to consider a wide range of reasonable adjustments.

Aim 2: To facilitate students to **reflect** on their role as healthcare professionals and their attitudes towards and knowledge of the mental health needs of people with disabilities.

## Project description

Aim 1: To facilitate the transfer from theory to practice:

- **Method 1: Develop videos with expert testimonies and concrete case studies**

- Move away from abstract concepts but use actual materials, get hands-on experience

Aim 2: To facilitate students to reflect on their attitudes, knowledge and professional role:

- **Method 2: Reflective reports**

- Critically appraise current knowledge and skills and identify learning potential

- **Method 3: Disability-awareness barometers**

- Visualisation of how knowledge, attitudes and feelings regarding therapeutic work with people with disabilities change over the course of the seminar

## Results

- Method 1: Videos and case materials
  - Videos are still in the planning phase
- Method 2: Reflective reports: pre-post seminar
  - Increased self awareness of own preconceptions, assumptions and bias
  - Students appreciated looking back to their pre-seminar reports and their attitude and knowledge change
- Method 3: Disability-awareness-barometer: based on multidimensional attitudes towards people with disabilities scale (MAS), adapted for therapeutic context. Pre-post seminar
  - Even a single blockseminar may lead to reduced fear and increased openness towards working with this patient group



## Advice for colleagues interested in submitting a proposal

- Get early feedback on your proposal from the ZLL
- Contact colleagues who previously submitted a proposal
- Think creative. The proposals facilitate you to go beyond your standard teaching preparations and deliver even more student-focused teaching
- Just do it!