



BIG IDEAS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD OF DISABILITY

DONNA HARAWAY

Information Pack

Who can know?

**Presented by
Lea Klöpfer**

About the Workshop

About Lea

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Jack's review activity

Key words for this workshop

About the Workshop

This workshop is in partnership with the Universities of Koblenz and Leipzig in Germany.

1. Saying hallo - your name and ONE thing you want to tell us.

2. Lea will give a short talk with some slides.

Our German colleagues will translate for our German self advocates

3. We will have questions and discussion during the talk

40 minutes

Short break

4. Jack's review: drama - what happens when Jack from the fairy tale *Jack and the Beanstalk* has a safeguarding review?

Nicola will show you what to do.

5. Discussion - what does this mean to you?

6. Final thoughts

45 minutes

ABOUT LEA



I work at the University of Koblenz. I am interested in power, and violence, feminist ideas and disability studies.

It took me a long time to realize that I am allowed to be critical about so called facts and authorities, people in power.

I remember the awakening when I realized that just because someone has power or authority, it does not necessarily mean they know or speak 'the truth'.

Background - Donna Haraway

She studies the history of science and technology.

Most scientists (and others) search for universal and timeless truth and objectivity. This means: they search for “laws of nature”, which never change and will always be true.

Many people now think this approach is old-fashioned and mainly dominated by men.

Haraway says: We need a new way of thinking and being

And we need to think about humans, animals and nature together.

Haraway's questions

What is knowledge?

What kinds of knowledge are there?

Who creates knowledge?

Who are the experts by experience?

What does this mean?

Activity

Many people with learning disabilities are supported by social services
They discuss what they want to happen in their lives
Everyone has different ideas about what is right for that person
There has to be a "risk assessment" to make sure the person will be safe
Sometimes there will be a safeguarding review....

Jack's review

In many fairy tales there is a boy who may have a learning difficulty of some kind.

In English stories he is often called "Jack" or "Simpleton"

In German he is often called "Hans"

In the English fairy tale *Jack and the Beanstalk*, Jack sells a cow for a handful of beans...His mother is really cross. What happens when he has a "safeguarding" review from the psychologist, social worker, and service provider or manager? What do the police say?

Watch the story here <https://youtu.be/hcSbZbrb0qo>

In German, Hans und der Bohnenstange. Google on youtube.

The service manager (Nicola) welcomes everyone.

She says “This review is person centred. This means we listen to you and your mother...”

Jack says... I'd like to live on my own, and have a job and a girlfriend and manage my own money

- His mum thinks...
- The social worker thinks.....
- The psychologist thinks....
- The manager thinks...
- Mr Big the giant has called the police, and they have got involved too... what do the police think?

This drama is a good example of what Donna Haraway calls “Situated knowledges”

Everyone sees the facts from their own situation.

We have to combine what we all know

And respect the views of other people.

Key words

These definitions try to explain how we usually understand words that are important to Haraway's ideas.

Haraway makes us think of the meanings in a different way.

- **Knowledge**

What we know.

We know things in different ways - for example

Facts that we read about or see in the media

What we learn from our senses - hearing, seeing, touching, tasting, smelling, moving

Our past and our experiences

- **Situated knowledge**

Situation

The place or position you come from: who and where you are

Your situation might be where you live, how you live, who you know, what is happening to you at the moment.

Situated knowledge means that all knowledge comes from a place and a time and a personal experience

- **Expert by Experience**

Someone whose understanding comes from their own personal life happenings,

Experience

What you have learned through your own life, through doing and feeling, and what has happened to you.

Expert

Someone who has a lot of understanding and experience about an area of knowledge.

• **Objectivity**

If you are objective, you are not influenced by personal feelings or opinions when you are thinking about facts.

You don't favour one side or another in a discussion or argument.

Objective

Haraway says it is not possible to be completely objective. We need to recognise where we are coming from with our own ideas

Bias is where you tend to prefer one side of an issue because of your own views or experiences. You may not realise you are doing this.

Unbiased means you look at all sides of an issue as you make up your mind what you think

Haraway says that knowledge always contains bias because of the situation it comes from. There can never be an unbiased view.

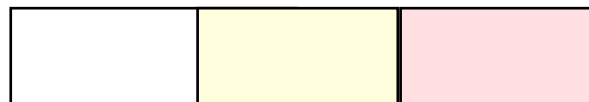
Neutral

Not showing any feelings - you don't mind.

If you are neutral in an argument, you don't take one side or another.

A neutral colour is a colour that does not stand out. For example, white and pale pink are often thought to be neutral.... (BUT ARE THEY?)

Neutral colours????



Prejudice

You think someone or something is bad or wrong just because of who they are or what it is

It's just your opinion based on your personal feelings. There isn't a good reason for this dislike.

• Normal and Typical Groups

Society treats some people as *normal* or *typical*.

In our society that usually means

a white man

whose physical relationships are with women,

who does not have any kind of disability or impairment,

is neurotypical,

communicates through speech

and (often) who is middle class

Other groups stand out from this “norm”. They are marked out by being:-

women,

black

gay, trans, intersexual;

disabled; neurodiverse;

Users of sign language or a computer -

Or maybe all of these!

You can probably think of other groups

The normal groups are privileged and often hold power.

Privilege

You are treated with more respect because of your “normal” status

Perspective

The way you look at the world - like a camera taking a photo through a particular lens or from a particular place. When you take a different perspective, you see and understand different things.

Critical

If you are critical it can mean pointing out things that are wrong.

But it also means thinking clearly and honestly about all sides of an issue

Denial

Deny means to say NO not true.

If you are “in denial” you refuse to admit that something is true, even though there is good reason for it.

Jack and the Beanstalk story

Once upon a time...

There was a boy called Jack who lived with his mother. They were very poor

So poor that they had to sell the cow

Jack's mum said "Jack go to market. Sell the cow. Get a good price for the cow so we have some money"

Jack went to market with the cow

On the way he met a man

The man said he would buy the cow and give Jack some magic beans

Jack agreed

He went back home

His mum was FURIOUS

She threw the beans out of the window

They went to bed hungry

In the morning they looked out of the window and saw a huge beanstalk growing up into the sky

Jack climbed the beanstalk till he reached a land above the clouds

He saw a castle

He knocked on the door

A woman answered.

She let Jack in but said her husband was a giant who would eat him up. Jack hid

The giant came home. He had his dinner

Then he counted out all his gold

He fell asleep

Jack crept out and stole the moneybags

He ran to the beanstalk

The giant woke up and ran after him

But Jack got down the beanstalk and chopped it down with an axe

Jack and his mum lived happily ever after with the money he had taken