

BIG IDEAS THAT CHANGED THE WORLD OF DISABILITY



- What do they mean?
- How can we use them?

Theory

- A theory is an idea which:-
- Helps us think about problems
- Explains why something happens
- Suggests what might happen next

Workshop 8

What can we know?

- » This workshop is about knowledge
- » How is knowledge produced?
- » And who produces knowledge?

- » Question for everyone
 - » What do you think of when you hear the word "knowledge"

The ideas of Donna Haraway

Today's thinker is...

- born in 1944 (78 years old)
- Works in universities
- a biologist
- a feminist
- working on the history of science

Donna Haraway's big idea(s)

- We need a new way of thinking, living and being in this world together

- Knowledge production & Situated Knowledges

Knowledge

- What do you know?
- What kinds of knowledge are there?
 - Information, facts
 - practical
 - how something feels
- Let's look at who creates knowledge

Who is "in the know"....?

- » Scientists think that there are 2 groups of people
- » and only one group can really create knowledge

These people ARE "in the know"
and CAN produce knowledge

- not disabled
- male
- white
- heterosexual
- and...

They are seen as "normal"

They are privileged

Societies give them power and
status

Not "in the know"

- people with disabilities
- people of colour
- women
- Lgbtqi+
- AND.... Anyone else??

Neutral & objective?

- Some groups of people are presented as neutral, objective, universal, knowing scientists
- Other groups can be ignored because they are not being neutral or objective

Other groups

But

- Other groups of people do have their own history
- And are experts by experience

A problem

Privileged groups like scientists claim power
They can see others critically
but they may not look critically at themselves

Haraway talks about all knowledge coming from
particular situations (contexts, places and experience)

She calls for "Situated Knowledges"

Situated Knowledge **S** & the view of less powerful people

Haraway says

- We should always be looking for the perspectives of less powerful people

Because

they know what it is like to be ignored and oppressed

They can speak from their experience

Haraway's Vision - Being here

Conclusion

Haraway argues that knowledge

- Comes from particular situations
- is always partial
- We should always be able to discuss and criticise knowledge

Jack and the Beanstalk

» Jack is a vulnerable young man with a learning difficulty

» He has recently been in trouble for stealing money from

Mr. Big

Drama - Jack's Safeguarding review

We need to hear from
everyone of course

This is a person
centred review.....

Jack's manager from
his support is taking
charge...

What does this idea mean to you?