

Disability Identity and Pride in Equity Research: Webinar Summary



Hosted by the Community Living Equity Center (CLEC) on August 18, 2023

Led by Jennifer Lee-Rambharose, CLEC Project Coordinator

Interactive audience Q&A moderated by Teresa Nguyen, CLEC Director

Guest panelists: Dr. Janie Mejias, Andy Arias, and Germán Parodi

Synopsis by Mel Ptacek · September 2023

Introduction

The webinar began with an overview of the Community Living Equity Center (CLEC) and its [mission and principles](#). CLEC conducts research related to disparities in community living and in participation experienced by disabled people of color. CLEC seeks to develop interventions and recommendations for systems change related to policy and planning. From its inception, CLEC has been committed to the participation and leadership of disabled people of color within CLEC leadership and at all stages of the research process.

The webinar discussed existing barriers to disability inclusion and identity within the research process, the current lack of relevant data, and ways that researchers might better engage with disabled people of multiple, intersecting identities. Panelists were members of the CLEC [Community Advisory Committee](#), representing a wide range of disability identity, culture, and pride.

Several themes emerged in the discussion and resonated with attendees. The panelists' discussion offered several recommendations.

Moderator



Jennifer Lee-Rambharose
CLEC Project Coordinator

Panelists



Janie Mejias
Women Enabled International



Andy Arias
Self-Advocate and Policy Subject
Matter Expert



Germán Parodi
The Partnership for Inclusive
Disaster Strategies


Themes

-  Urgent need for the *meaningful* inclusion and involvement of disabled people of color throughout the research process
-  Respect for the needs and priorities of disabled people of color too often lacking
-  Intersectionality of multiple identities among disabled people of color
-  Moving from disability rights to disability justice
-  Researching and teaching disability pride

Recommendations

-  Ensure meaningful participation for disabled people of color at all stages and in all parts of the research process, including dissemination of the analyses and the results
-  Offer visible and expansive leadership opportunities to disabled people of color
-  Be thoughtful about intersectionality and accessibility
-  Understand dissemination of research results as a significant accessibility issue

and

-  Disabled people of color should be included meaningfully in *all* discussions of policy and practices, not only those that explicitly pertain to disability

The panelists cited CLEC as an example of a research center led by people of color with disabilities and promoting their visibility as it models the principles of equitable and collaborative research discussed during the webinar. CLEC researchers and leadership emphasized the importance of disability identity and pride to them and their work and the importance of participatory research frameworks to CLEC research projects.

Note: An expanded version of this summary is available as a “Webinar Recap.”

Access the Webinar Recording

Access the recording:

https://brandeis.mediaspace.kaltura.com/media/t/1_ekszzpp9g

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