

Biography

Anne O'Donnell

Guest Speaker

Anne is an Irish woman at home in Edinburgh. Since the mid-1990s she has used mental health services and been active in Independent Advocacy.

Her experiences of activism have been informed by living on benefits and her experience of mental distress is what brought her to study for a MSc in Community Education at Moray House.

Anne now works as the Co-ordinator of a Lothian-wide mental health education project called LEARN which is part of CAPS Independent Advocacy. All their courses are developed and delivered by people with lived experience of mental health issues who are involved in their collective advocacy groups. This is one of the many ways independent advocacy amplifies people's voices.

Anne is also on the editorial board for CONCEPT The Journal of Contemporary Community Education Practice Theory and actively encourages practitioners to submit articles.

Her academic/activist interests come together in the field of Mad Studies, which is an emerging discipline which centres "the experiences, history, culture, political organising, narratives, writings and most importantly, the PEOPLE who identify as: Mad; psychiatric survivors; consumers; service users; mentally ill; patients, neuro-diverse; inmates; disabled - to name a few of the "identity labels" our community may choose to use. From <https://madstudies2014.wordpress.com/2014/10/15/mad-studies-what-it-is-and-why-you-should-care-2/>

She writes in this field and also lectures on the Mad People's History and Identity course at Queen Margaret University, the only one of its kind.

To read examples of Anne's writing please follow the links below:

<https://independent.academia.edu/AnneODonnell1>

LEARN www.capsadvocacy.org/learn

Concept: <http://concept.lib.ed.ac.uk/>

