



Making research matter: the value of participatory research

ILD Public Lecture Series

Speaker: Dr Laura Crane

10 June 2021 | 5.30pm
Online



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Abstract: There is growing recognition of the need to conduct research 'with', as opposed to 'on', 'about' or 'for', the communities that we study. Despite calls for greater participation of stakeholders within research, there is much uncertainty regarding the practicalities and utility of such an approach. In this talk, Dr Crane will discuss the opportunities and challenges of participatory research, with a focus on autism research. As part of this, Dr Crane will present case examples of her co-produced research on (a) mental health in young autistic people, (b) autism in minority ethnic communities, and (c) eliciting the voices of autistic pupils in a residential special school.



Bio: Dr Laura Crane is an Associate Professor at UCL Institute of Education, where she is Deputy Director of the Centre for Research in Autism and Education (CRAE). Dr Crane's research focuses on understanding the educational experiences of autistic children and young people (in mainstream and special schools), and identifying evidence-based ways to support pupils, parents and educators. Central to Dr Crane's work is a commitment to involving autistic people and their allies in research; ensuring that her research has a strong

participatory ethos and is of direct and practical relevance to those it affects. For example, Dr Crane chairs an innovative school-research partnership (the Pan London Autism Schools Network Research Group) and spent a decade on the editorial team of 'Autism: The International Journal of Research and Practice', leading activities to promote community engagement with the research published in the journal. Dr Crane has won several prizes for her efforts in this area, including the charity Autistica's Community Engagement Award (2018), a UCL Provost's Prize for Public Engagement (2018), and a Rising Star Engagement Award from the British Academy (2017).



Thurs 10 June

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Microsoft Teams