



McGill Centre for  
Human Rights  
and Legal Pluralism



Centre sur les droits de la  
personne et le pluralisme  
juridique de McGill

## DICARP Annual Report: 2020-2021

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DICARP

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## INTRODUCTION

Under the auspices of the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism (CHRLP) at the McGill University Faculty of Law, the Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Research Programme (DICARP) aims to generate, co-produce, share, and translate knowledge on how efforts to combat the climate crisis can be designed and implemented in ways that respect, protect, and fulfill the rights of disabled people.

Led through a partnership between the McGill CHRLP and the Canada Research Chair in Human Rights, Health, and the Environment, DICARP collaborates closely with a growing international network of scholars, students, experts, and activists working in the fields of disability and climate change.

## OPENING REMARKS

We launched DICARP a year ago with the goal of bringing people with disabilities, their rights, and their perspectives at the forefront of climate research and policy thinking. Working closely with partners from around the world, we have promoted the importance of a disability-inclusive approach to climate change in a wide range of venues and regions of the world. We have also released the first legal article on a disability rights-based approach to climate change and have completed a systematic analysis of disability in climate policies from around the world. Whenever conditions make it possible, we will begin conducting qualitative research on how people with disabilities are affected by climate change and efforts to combat it. While we have accomplished a lot in the past year, we are at the beginning of a long and daunting journey. I am heartened that we have been able to begin this challenging journey alongside so many of the courageous and dedicated disability and climate activists that have joined our network. We look forward to building on what we have accomplished in the past year and working with our advisors and partners to empower people with disabilities and enhance their resilience in the context of the climate crisis.

— Sébastien Jodoin



## TEAM

### DIRECTORS



**Prof. Sébastien Jodoin** is the director of the Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Research Program. He is an Associate Professor in the Faculty of Law of McGill University and holds the Canada Research Chair (tier 2) in Human Rights, Health and the Environment. He is also a member of the McGill Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism and an Associate Member of the Institute of Health & Social Policy, the Max Bell School of Public Policy, and the McGill School of Environment. His research focuses on three broad themes: the relationship between human rights and the climate crisis; transnational and comparative climate law and policy, and the role of disability rights in addressing complex health and environmental problems. Dr. Jodoin is the author of *Forest Preservation in a Changing Climate: REDD+ and Indigenous and Community Rights in Indonesia and Tanzania* (Cambridge University Press, 2017) and the co-editor of the *Routledge Handbook of Human Rights and Climate Governance* (Routledge, 2018). His scholarship has been cited by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. In his capacity as a faculty member living with multiple sclerosis, he currently serves as the co-chair for McGill University's Joint Board-Senate Subcommittee on Persons with Disabilities. Prior to his appointment at McGill, Sébastien worked at the United Nations and the Canadian section of Amnesty International. A former Trudeau Scholar, he holds a Ph.D. in environmental studies from Yale University, an M.Phil. in international relations from the University of Cambridge, an LL.M. in international law from the London School of Economics, and B.C.L. and LL.B degrees from McGill University.



**Dr. Yolanda Muñoz** is a co-investigator with the Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Research Program and coordinates its outreach, capacity-building, and advocacy activities. She is a Senior Research Associate with the Canada Research Chair in Human Rights, Health, and the Environment and contributes to its research and policy activities on the intersections of disability and environmental justice. She has more than 25 years of experience advocating for the rights of people with disabilities in Mexico, Quebec, and at the international level. She has worked as a consultant in inclusive development for the Inter-American Development Bank and served for four years as Program Officer at the Disability Rights Fund and the Disability Rights Advocacy Fund, which promote the implementation of the UNCRPD in



more than 26 countries. Recently, she has worked as an external consultant for Global Greengrants Fund to promote anti-ableist practices in their climate justice grant-making activities.



**Prof. Nandini Ramanujam** is a co-investigator with the Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Research Program. She is an Associate Professor in McGill University's Faculty of Law and the Executive Director of the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism (CHRLP). Through her leadership of CHRLP's Disability and Human Rights initiative, she has worked with international DPOs and CSOs on applied and clinical legal and policy research projects in the fields of disability, human rights, and international development. Before joining the McGill Faculty of Law, she served as the Director of the Higher Education Support Program of the Open Society Institute and continues to be part of the Open Society Foundations' Disability Rights Consortium.



**Katherine Lofts** is the Senior Research Associate with the Canada Research Chair in Human Rights, Health, and the Environment and conducts research on global efforts to build linkages between human rights and climate change. For more than a decade, she has led and collaborated on a range of projects and publications relating to climate change, human rights, and environmental governance. She holds BCL, LLB, and LL.M. degrees from the McGill University Faculty of Law, as well as an MA in English literature (McGill) and a BA in English (Honours) (University of Victoria). In addition, Katherine completed a law clerkship at the Federal Court of Canada and has served as the Programme Manager for the Centre for International Sustainable Development Law's Climate Change Programme. Originally from Vancouver Island, Katherine has lived and worked in the US, the UK, France, India, and Singapore.

## STUDENT COORDINATORS



**Amanda Bowie-Edwards** is a third year BCL/JD student at the McGill Faculty of Law and research associate with the Canada Research Chair in Human Rights, Health, and the Environment. She has demonstrated strong leadership in her prior role as the Law Students' Association Vice President of Clubs, her human rights activism including with the CHRLP's International Human Rights Internship Program, and her work with the Public Health Agency of Canada. Originally from Thunder Bay, Ontario, she moved to Montreal during high school. Prior to studying law, she obtained a DEC from John Abbott College in Liberal Arts. Amanda has a keen interest in international human rights law, environmental law, and transitional justice.



**Elise Mallette** is a research associate with the Canada Research Chair in Human Rights, Health, and the Environment, and her work focuses on the intersection of disability and climate justice. She is entering her fourth and final year at McGill Faculty of Law. She is the Director of the Yoga Club and Plate Club and is a member of various other clubs. She has held an internship at the Centre Québécois du droit de l'environnement (CQDE) and has volunteered with the Legal Information Clinic at McGill (LICM). Prior to her experience in law school, Elise worked at a real estate law firm, taught English at elementary schools in France, worked with veterans, and worked on multiple organic farms. She obtained her B.A. in International Studies and French with a concentration in Socio-Cultural Identity at the University of Mississippi. She is passionate about climate justice and its impact on all marginalized groups and intends on pursuing a career fighting for their rights.



**Nevada McEniry-Hatajlo** graduated from the Faculty of Law in the Fall of 2020. Throughout her experience at McGill, she focused her studies on criminal law and human rights and sought out opportunities in which these two areas intersect. She loved working with DICARP and the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism because it provided a new intersectional learning experience for her. Understanding the connection between disability rights and climate change is crucial in navigating our world and moving forward. This experience was invaluable to her because of this, and also because of the lovely, empathetic, and passionate people she got to work with. Nevada is currently studying at l'École du barreau in Montreal and continuously seeking opportunities like DICARP to connect with communities and gain new perspective.



**Ellen Spannagel** is a third year BCL/JD student at McGill's Faculty of Law and is a research associate with the Canada research Chair in Human Rights and the Environment, where her research focuses on the intersection between LGBTQ rights, vulnerabilities, and adaptation in the context of climate justice. She is passionate about disability advocacy and has worked with Human Rights Watch on their ongoing climate justice research, and has helped DICARP launch their first podcast series, *Enabling Commons*, which centers the insight of disabled persons in discussing a transition to a low-carbon economy. She holds a Bachelor of Journalism and Humanities from Carleton University.

## CONNECT WITH US

Email: [dicarp.law@mcgill.ca](mailto:dicarp.law@mcgill.ca)

Website: <https://www.disabilityinclusiveclimate.org/>

Twitter: @McGillCHRLP (<https://twitter.com/mcgillchrlp?lang=en>)

Facebook: <https://www.facebook.com/McGillCHRLP/>

YouTube: [https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCNA15TgoRgqzvEfLA3fP\\_w](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCCNA15TgoRgqzvEfLA3fP_w)

## RESOURCES

DICARP's mission is to facilitate the production and dissemination of knowledge about the intersections on disability rights and climate action. Our [Resources Page](#) is an ever-growing compilation of reports, scholarship, and commentary on the relationship between disability and climate change.

We welcome our supporters to send any suggestion of papers, reports, or organizations that are relevant to disability and climate justice. If you have any information you would like to contribute, please email us at [dicarp.law@mcgill.ca](mailto:dicarp.law@mcgill.ca). We encourage sources available in any language, particularly as we develop our website to offer information in English, Spanish, and French!

The currently available Resources can be found in the **Appendix** (p.25) of this report.



## ADVISORY NETWORK

DICARP works and consults with an international network of disability and climate scholars and activists from around the world. This Advisory Network was formerly referred to as our Advisory Panel, but we have been fortunate to expand beyond the format of a panel and will henceforth refer to it as our Advisory Network.



**Francisco J. Bariffi** – [Universidad Nacional de Mar del Plata](#) | Born in Santa Rosa, Argentina in 1974, Francisco J. Bariffi holds a Doctorate in International Human Rights Law (PhD) from the University Carlos III of Madrid, Spain. He is Deputy Director of the Center on Human Rights Research and Education, National University of Mar del Plata. In addition, he is also the Academic Coordinator of the Ibero-American Network of Experts on the UN Convention of the Rights of Persons with Disabilities ([www.redcdpd.net](http://www.redcdpd.net)), and Assistant Professor in the course of International Law and Constitutional Theory, National University of Mar del Plata. He is a Certified Senior Researcher on the National Commission on University Evaluation and Certification (CONEAU) in Buenos Aires, Argentina.



**Karina Chupina** – [International Federation of Hard of Hearing People](#) | As a person with a profound hearing loss, Karina Chupina has been a passionate disability inclusion advocate and trainer for more than 20 years. Karina served as a President of the International Federation of Hard of Hearing Young People ([IFHOHYP](#)), Global Advisor to the [Disability Rights Fund](#), member of the [European Disability Forum Youth Committee](#), and UNICEF Youth Council of the [Global Partnership on Children with Disabilities](#). Karina is a Senior trainer and expert of the Council of Europe on civil society sector capacity-building, social inclusion, disability rights and youth participation. She is a co-author and editor of international manuals "COMPASS" and "Companion" (Council of Europe), "No Barriers, No Borders", "Inclusion from A to Z" (European Commission).

Karina is also a writer, professional translator and researcher. She has authored a series of articles and policy texts on social inclusion of youth with disabilities, policy recommendations to the UN OHCHR, Committee on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, European Institutions and the Russian Federal ministries, tackling disability policies' implementation and outlining concrete measures for the implementation of national plans for accessibility, access to education and employment, in the regions of Eastern and Western Europe. She conducted research and drafted reports on access to culture for people with disabilities in Russia and

Germany (incl. developed inclusivity assessment tools for cultural institutions), and access to inclusive education in Nepal and Uganda.

Karina holds MA degrees in International Journalism, International Relations & Management, and Sociology. Originally from St. Petersburg, Russia, she now lives in Germany, where she defended her Ph.D. in Rehabilitation Sciences and Disability Studies at Humboldt University in Berlin.

More information on Karina Chupina can be found on [LinkedIn](#) and [SALTO](#).



**Louise Fournier** – [Greenpeace](#) | Louise leads the legal work of Greenpeace’s global climate justice and liability campaign. Prior to joining Greenpeace International, Louise worked in international climate policy and in Canadian indigenous and environmental litigation, in international climate policy at the UNFCCC and as Associate litigation counsel for Greenpeace Southeast Asia. Louise is an attorney registered in the New York Bar and holds a LLM degree in international environmental law and climate change law from the

University of Edinburgh and a BCL and LLB from McGill University. She is based in Amsterdam, Netherlands and is fluent in Mandarin, French and English.



**Patrick Fugeyrollas** – [L’Institute national pour l’équité, l’égalité et l’inclusion des personnes en situation de handicap \(INÉÉI-PSH\)](#) & [Université Laval](#) | Patrick Fugeyrollas, Ph.D. is an associate professor at the Department of anthropology, Laval University. He is a researcher at the Center of interdisciplinary research on rehabilitation and social integration. He is a founding member and advisor of the International Network on the Disability Creation Process (INDCP). In addition, he is the Vice-President of the Institut national sur l’équité, l’égalité et l’inclusion- Personnes en situation de handicap (INEEI-PSH-Canada). He is the main author of the

[International Classification: Human Development Model – Disability Creation Process](#). His research focuses on the social determinants of disability, Disability Rights Movement and Inclusive Access. He has an extensive experience in the management, planning and evaluation of the health/disability policies applied to social participation and Human Rights of persons with disabilities. He is the 2004 recipient of the Disability Achievement Award of the American Public Health Association and the 2016 recipient of the Tanis Doe Award of the Canadian Association of Disability Studies.



**Pratima Gurung – [Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network](#)** |

Pratima Gurung is a leading academic activist from Nepal. She teaches at Padmakanya College, one of the single women's colleges in Nepal. Gurung has engaged in research that includes gender, disability, Indigenous identities, and inclusion, and has published a number of articles on these issues both nationally and internationally. Through her research, she highlights hidden voices from the ground, and does her activism through organizations like the

National Indigenous Disabled Women Association Nepal (NIDWAN), Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network (IPWDGN), and works in collaboration with International Disability Alliance (IDA) and Disability Advocacy Rights Funds (DRAF).



**Carlos Kaiser – [ONG Inclusiva](#)** | Carlos Kaiser is a person with disabilities. Kaiser has experience in inclusive 'build back better' efforts in Chile after two great earthquakes and tsunamis, wildfires, landslides and other disasters. More recently, he has been working against COVID-19, working for the protection of the human rights of people with disabilities.

Kaiser is the first TG Disability Disaster Risk Reduction Global Focal Point. He is the Executive Director of Inclusiva NGO. Under his management, Inclusiva NGO won the Risk Award 2014 and was nominated for the Sasakawa 2015 award.

Kaiser represented people with disabilities in a High-Level Partnership Dialogue on "Inclusive Disaster Risk Management: Governments, Communities And Groups Acting Together" in Sendai 2015. Kaiser has been invited as a speaker and/or as a trainer in inclusive emergency management to Japan, Latvia, Argentina, Uruguay, Bangladesh, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Honduras, Ecuador, Switzerland, Peru, Chile, and Thailand. He is the Chairperson of the Inclusive Management of Disaster Risk and Disabilities Reduction of Latin America and the Caribe Network. Kaiser, representing Inclusiva NGO, is a member of the United Nations Sendai Framework Indicators and Terminology team, and Special Session 2 Organizing Team member is part of the team that worked on the Dhaka declaration and led a team about disabilities in the Chile-Japan earthquake tsunami drill.



**Mary Keogh** – [CBM Global](#) | Dr. Mary Keogh is Advocacy Director for CBM Global where she is responsible for leading on CBM Global's advocacy strategy in partnership with organisations representing persons with disabilities. Mary has worked in international development for over many years, before working with CBMG, she worked with the International Disability Rights Monitor. She holds a doctorate in public law and policy and her research interests include intersectionality, gender equality and climate justice and persons with disabilities.



**Selma Koudri** – [L'Institut national pour l'équité, l'égalité et l'inclusion des personnes en situation de handicap \(INÉÉI-PSH\)](#) | Selma Koudri is Co-founder and Director of the Institut National pour l'équité, l'égalité et l'Inclusion des personnes en situation de handicap (INÉÉI-PSH).

Trained as a translator and publicist, she has become a committed activist in the promotion and defense of rights and a committed worker, actively contributing to the advancement of people with disabilities, especially women and children. She works on issues related to violence and discrimination, empowerment through access to the labor market, social and civic inclusion as well as fair and equal access to social and health services. She considers that social participation and economic inclusion for all is a fundamental right and that by respecting it, we work collectively to achieve a fair, egalitarian, and inclusive society. She therefore calls for the recognition of the participation as well as the improvement of the living conditions of people with disabilities, regardless of their age, gender or ethnocultural origin.

"The inclusive society is a society that promotes equity, recognizing the diversity and the needs of all of its citizens. It also recognizes their contribution and prohibits any form of discrimination, which creates harmony and social peace. "



**Anna Lawson** – [University of Leeds](#) | Anna Lawson is Professor of Law at the University of Leeds where she is also the joint director of the University's Centre for Disability Studies. Her work focuses on disability equality and human rights at international, national and local levels. Herself disabled, Anna has played active roles in a range of disabled people's organisations and human rights organisations. In 2016 Anna was awarded (by the Equal Rights Trust and Industrial Law Society) the Bob Hepple Memorial Prize in recognition of her contributions to disability equality; and in 2018 she



became a Fellow of the Academy of Social Science. Anna is also an honorary Master of the Bench at the Middle Temple Inns of Court and the patron of the National Association of Disabled Staff Networks in UK universities.



**Setareki S. Macanawai** – [Pacific Disability Forum](#) | Setareki S. Macanawai is currently the CEO, Pacific Disability Forum and previously the Executive Director, Fiji National Council for Disabled Persons and Headteacher, Fiji School for the Blind. He graduated from Corpus Christi Teachers College in Fiji in 1985 with a Primary Teachers Certificate and studied at the Auckland College of Education in New Zealand (1988) graduating with a Diploma in the Education of Visually Impaired Children. He then attended the University of Tennessee at Chattanooga, USA (1993-94), before completing a Bachelor of Education (Special Education) and Masters in Educational Administration (Honours) degree in 1998 at the University of New England, New South Wales, Australia.

Setareki has received a number of regional and international awards in recognition of his professional and academic achievements in the field of disability. As a leading disability advocate in Asia and the Pacific region, he has served in the committees of many international and regional organisations concerned with disability. He has presented papers at regional and international meetings and conferences, and has written several articles, chapters and thesis on disability. He is a keen advocate of disability inclusive development where persons with disabilities and their representative organisations are in the front and centre and playing a key role in all aspects of development.

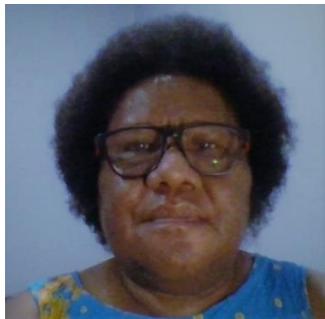


**Dianah Msipa** – [Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria](#) | Dianah Msipa is a Zimbabwean female lawyer based in Pretoria, South Africa. She is a Programme officer in the Disability Rights Unit at the Centre for Human Rights, University of Pretoria. Dianah holds a Master of Laws (LL.M) degree from McGill University in Canada (2014), a Post-graduate Diploma in Legal Practice (LPC) from Northumbria University in the United Kingdom (2008), and a Bachelor of Laws degree (LL.B Hons) from Newcastle University in the United Kingdom (2006). She is currently completing a Doctor of Laws (LL.D) degree at the Faculty of Law, University of Pretoria.

Dianah began her legal career as a criminal prosecutor in her home country of Zimbabwe during which time she discovered her passion for human rights, specifically, the rights of persons with disabilities. In pursuit of this passion, Dianah furthered her studies and specialised in International Human Rights Law with expertise on the rights of persons with disabilities.



Her research interests include access to justice, legal capacity, sexual and reproductive health rights and the right to employment. After completing her Master of Laws degree in 2014, Dianah interned with Inclusion International and then went on to advance the rights of persons with disabilities in Africa through her work as an independent consultant providing technical assistance to various disabled peoples' organisations across the region. She has done work in various countries including South Africa, Zambia, Lesotho, Malawi, Zanzibar, Kenya, Uganda, Rwanda, Namibia, Botswana and further afield in Indonesia. This work was carried out under contracts with various international organisations such as the Open Society Institute; the Open Society Initiative for Eastern Africa; Disability Rights Fund; Disabled Women in Africa; and the Iris Institute. Dianah has also worked under contracts with various national organisations such as the UK Prison Reform Trust; the Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled; Malawi National Federation of the Deaf; UNABU Rwanda; and the National Organisation of Users and Survivors of Psychiatry in Rwanda (NOUSPR), amongst others.



**Ipul Powaseu – [Papua New Guinea Assembly of Disabled Persons](#) |**

Ms Ipul Powaseu is a PhD student at Deakin University. She holds a BSc degree from University of Papua New Guinea (PNG), and a Masters in Business (Communications management) from Queensland University of Technology (Australia). Ms Powaseu spent almost 30 years in the field of agricultural and socio-economic research in PNG, and short stint at the Secretariat of the Pacific Communities in Fiji.

Her role as an advocate for disability began in 2006 and since then has led in advocating for the empowerment and promotion of the rights of persons with disabilities. She was instrumental in seeing the PNG Government ratifying the Convention on the Rights of persons with disability (CRPD) in 2013, making PNG the 136th country to ratify the UNCRPD.

She also was instrumental in leading on the advocacy towards the PNG government to develop a standalone Disability Bill and a draft being finalized to be presented to the PNG National Executive Council by the Department for Community Development.

She headed the PNG Assembly of Disabled Persons in PNG (national DPO) for 9 years since its establishment in 2009 to 2018. She then handed the baton to emerging leaders and is taking on an advisory role. Through this leadership role, she developed a structure of disabled people's organization at the sub-national level creating 20 DPOs (sub-national level) and recently established a foundation for the establishment of Women with Disability Network across the 20 provinces of PNG.

Ipul has contributed to regional and global discussions on disability issues through her involvement and participations on various global committees and groups. Her particular interests and advocacy roles are:



- The impact of climate change intersecting with disability – attended and spoke at the COP 22
- Intersectionality between gender and disability – various gender and women conferences.
- Indigeneity, gender and disability – (member of the Indigenous People with Disability Global Network)
- Upskilling and building capacities of DPO leadership

She held positions on the Pacific Disability Forum as Co-Chair Female (2012-2013) and a board member of Pacific Disability Forum. Her current Thesis title is: Critical analysis of the PNG Social Policies on Disability.



**Shivaun Quinlivan** – [NUI Galway](#) | Dr. Shivaun Quinlivan, is a lecturer in the School of Law, and the Vice Dean for Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in the College of Business, Public Policy and Law. She specialises in equality law, education law and constitutional law. She is currently an expert advisor to the States of Guernsey in relation to the development of new multi-ground equality legislation. Shivaun was recently awarded an O'Brien Residential Fellowship and has completed a period in residence in the Centre for Human Rights and Legal Pluralism, Faculty of Law, McGill University, Quebec, Canada.

Dr. Quinlivan is the co-chair of the School of Business and Economics Athena SWAN Self Assessment Team, she is a member of the Institutional Self Assessment Team, and a committee member of the University Women's Network. In 2010, she coordinated the establishment of the LLM in International and Comparative Disability Law and Policy, for which she was the Programme Director from 2010-2016.

Dr. Quinlivan holds a BA and LLB from NUI Galway, an LLM from King's College London and a PhD from Trinity College Dublin. She is also a qualified barrister.



**Gordon Rattray** – [European Disability Forum](#) | Gordon Rattray is International Cooperation Officer with European Disability Forum (EDF). Prior to this this he was with CBM, focusing on disability-inclusive humanitarian action, disaster risk reduction and international development. Gordon has also worked in accessible adventure travel, travel writing and overland safaris. His academic background is in biological science.



**Marcie Roth** – [World Institute on Disability](#) | Marcie Roth is Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer for the World Institute on Disability (WID). WID is a highly regarded global public policy center working to advance the rights and opportunities of over 1 billion people with disabilities worldwide by disrupting exclusion and accelerating radical social justice.

Marcie has served in senior and executive leadership roles for national and global disability advocacy and public policy organizations since 1995, establishing and leading coalitions committed to operationalizing disability inclusion as an intersectional imperative for global social justice. Marcie's focus on improving emergency preparedness and disaster outcomes for people with disabilities and building accessible disaster resilient communities began in the immediate aftermath of the September 11, 2001 terrorist attacks while advising the White House on the rights and urgent needs of people with disabilities living in the area around ground zero.

Appointed by President Obama to the U.S Department of Homeland Security Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) from 2009 to 2017, Marcie established and directed the Office of Disability Integration and Coordination (ODIC).

Under her leadership, ODIC led national transformation towards integrating the access and functional needs of the whole community throughout emergency preparedness and disaster response, recovery and mitigation. Ms. Roth represented the U.S. government internationally as an expert on whole community inclusive global disaster risk reduction from 2012- 2017, serving as a leader throughout the development and implementation of the United Nations' Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030.

In 2017, Ms. Roth established the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies, the only U.S. disability-led organization (DPO) focused exclusively on disability inclusion before, during, and after public health emergencies and disasters. At FEMA, in launching the Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies, and in her current leadership role with WID, Marcie leads transformation towards disability inclusive emergency management and disaster risk reduction as critical elements for expanding worldwide climate adaptation and disaster resilience.

Marcie is a Harvard University Kennedy School of Government Senior Executive Fellow with a BS in Public Safety Administration from the University of Maryland Global Campus. She maintains offices at WID's global headquarters located on the Ed Roberts Campus in Berkeley, CA, and in Washington, DC.



**Nkhasi Sefuthi** – [Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled \(LNFOD\)](#) | Nkhasi Sefuthi is a Disability rights lawyer who was admitted by the High Court of Lesotho as Advocate of the courts of Lesotho in 2010 after he obtained Bachelor of laws (LLB) from the National University of Lesotho. He has just submitted his LLM dissertation of the master's degree in disability rights in Africa in partial fulfillment of the master's program in disability rights in Africa with the University of Pretoria in July 2020.

Nkhasi Sefuthi was appointed as the Executive Director of the Lesotho National Federation of Organisations of the Disabled (LNFOD) in 2014, three years after he joined LNFOD as the Advocacy and Human rights officer. Some of his milestones achieved over this period include representing persons with disabilities in the drafting of the Persons with Disability Equity Bill which is domesticating the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) in Lesotho, development of the National disability mainstreaming plan, appointment of ministerial disability focal points responsible for influencing disability mainstreaming within the public sector, and representation of persons with disabilities in various platforms in Lesotho.

Nkhasi Sefuthi is actively participating in the ongoing disability rights advocacy and has assisted LNFOD to draw advocacy and disability mainstreaming programmes, including the inclusive education program, employment for youth with disabilities programme, and access to justice for persons with disabilities which resulted into invalidation of laws discriminating against persons with disabilities. He presented the situation of the inclusive education for persons with disabilities to the Global education team and the Education Executive Directors of the World bank in Washington DC in 2018 which resulted into the implementation of the World Bank led inclusive education in Lesotho. He is one of the co-founders of the African continental representative organisations of persons with disabilities, Africa Disability Forum in Addis Ababa in 2014.



**Jewelless Smith** – [Council of Canadians with Disabilities](#) | Jewelless Smith is a strong voice for disability human rights in Canada. She has a passion for the intersections of accessibility and justice. Jewelless enjoys bringing diverse groups together, inserting a disability perspective in conversations and action. Jewelless is a PhD Candidate at UBC, Okanagan and lives in Coquitlam, BC.



**Fatma Wangare** – [Kenya Association of the Intellectually Handicapped](#) |

Fatma Wangare Haji is the Executive Officer of the Kenya Association of the Intellectually Handicapped (KAIH), a national organization that works with parents and guardians of youths who are intellectually handicapped. KAIH is aimed at eliminating the “disability” barriers in the environment, and it affirms that all human beings irrespective of their disabilities have certain rights which are inalienable. KAIH’s overall objective is to build a society that recognizes and protects the rights of PWIDs and their families to ensure that they are included in all aspects of life within their communities.

Fatma, herself a parent of an adult child with an intellectual disability, started her journey with KAIH in 2004 as a volunteer, becoming CEO by 2008. She has written numerous articles on cultural and attitudinal disabling barriers and the human rights abuses suffered by mentally disabled women and girls. Her primary mission is to combat discriminatory practices and educate the public about common myths and misconceptions about disabled persons.



**Elham Youssefian** – [International Disability Alliance](#) |

Elham Youssefian is the Inclusive Humanitarian Action and Disaster Risk Reduction Advisor in the International Disability Alliance (IDA) Secretariat. Elham is responsible for leading and coordinating the implementation of IDA’s strategy to promote and support the effective enforcement of inclusive humanitarian action and disaster risk reduction. She is currently leading IDA and IDDC joint advocacy and global campaign initiatives to address discrimination and exclusion of persons with disabilities in COVID-19 response and recovery. Together with representatives from UNICEF and CBM-global, Elham is co-chairing the IASC reference group on inclusion of persons with disabilities in humanitarian action.

Elham’s education is in fields of international law and human rights law. She also has diverse experience in protection and human rights with a focus on issues related to human trafficking, refugees, domestic violence, and discrimination against persons with disabilities. She is currently based in New York.



## EVENTS

### TOWARDS DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION | NYC CLIMATE WEEK 2020

As part of [New York Climate Week](#), the [Centre of Human Rights and Legal Pluralism](#) and the [Canada Research Chair in Human Rights and the Environment](#) held an event on 22 September 2020, entitled [Towards Disability-Inclusive Climate Action](#). It featured a panel of outstanding guest speakers from around the world:

- Stefan Trömel, [International Labour Organization](#) (Switzerland) - *Persons with disabilities in a just transition to a low-carbon economy*
- Pratima Gurung, [Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network & National Indigenous Disabled Women Association of Nepal](#) - *Indigenous Women with Disabilities in the Context of the Climate Crisis*
- Setareki Macanawai, [Pacific Disability Forum](#), [Indigenous Persons with Disabilities Global Network](#) (Fiji) - *The Impacts of Climate Change for Persons with Disabilities*
- Carlos Kaiser, [ONG Inclusiva](#) (Chile) - *Lessons Learned from Disability Inclusion in Disaster Risk Readiness*
- Sébastien Jodoin, [McGill University](#) - *A Disability Rights Approach to Climate Change*

The talk was chaired by [Dr. Yolanda Muñoz](#) (McGill University) and included opening remarks by Marcie Roth ([World Institute on Disability](#)) and closing remarks by Elham Youssefian ([International Disability Alliance](#)). The event served to launch McGill's [Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Research Program](#) and promote the work of the [Thematic Group on Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Action](#) established by the Stakeholder Group of Persons with Disabilities.

The discussion was filled with excellent and thought-provoking stories, reflections, and expressions of support. The panelists and participants emphasized the pressing need for “radical inclusion” of people with disabilities in every decision-making context, particularly concerning measures in adapting to climate change due its disproportionately harmful effects on PWDs. The speakers discussed not only the projects and groups they are each working with diligently, but also provided words of sobering reality (such as the lack of cognizance in multilateral agreements of the issues people with disabilities face, exacerbated by climate displacement, gender inequalities, and human rights violations) and motivating truths (we must act “glocally”—thinking globally and acting locally, and we must continue to be resilient and forward-thinking in every avenue, including the development of good jobs for everyone in the transition to a green economy).



The excellent guest turnout resulted in a wide array of compelling questions that the speakers collaborated in answering. Questions covered topics such as the possibility of increasing employment opportunities for people with disabilities in the shifting economic context, the relevance of and need for Indigenous perspectives around the world, advancing intersectional approaches, and the prioritization in advocacy of the lack of freshwater supplies. It was emphasized throughout the talk that people with disabilities have their own unique perspectives and ways of knowing the world which, having been excluded from mainstream decision-making and discussions, has led to a society-wide hindrance. It is only with fervent resolution and action by people with and without disabilities that we as a society can overcome and thrive.

DICARP wants to whole-heartedly thank all of our speakers, hosts, guests, and contributors. DICARP and its partners truly believe these sorts of collaborative initiatives will lead to greater global equity and empathy and radical proactive inclusion for the most marginalized communities. Thanks are due to the [McGill Sustainability Systems Initiative](#) for supporting this event.

For a play-by-play of the webinar, check out our [Twitter feed!](#) (#ClimateWeekNYC, #disability, #disability inclusion, #Indigenous, #climatecrisis)

To catch up on the conversation, you can view [the recorded webinar linked here](#) and the [transcript linked here](#).

## **[WORLD BLINDNESS SUMMIT | MADRID, 2021](#)**

**Dr. Yolanda Muñoz** was featured, along with other esteemed panelists, in the fascinating Climate Change Webinar, held on Thursday, June 28, 2021 @ 14:30-16:00 EDT (18:30-20:00 GMT, 20:30-22:00 Madrid Time). This panel session explored the importance of accessible information, health and wellbeing considerations, working in disability-inclusive partnerships in disaster risk reduction, and much more. Presentations included disability-inclusive initiatives and research as well as the on-the-ground situation for children with disabilities and their families in Kiribati, a small Pacific Island Country that is at the forefront of climate change.



**World Blindness Summit Madrid 2021** (Monday, June 28, 2021 – Wednesday, June 30, 2021) is a global meeting, with Madrid as the virtual epicentre and the whole planet as the leading character, which is organised by the **ONCE Social Group** and will include the **General Assembly of the WBU** (World Blind Union) and of the **ICEVI** (International Council of Educators of Visually Impaired People).



This is a **cutting-edge, disruptive and innovative event** that embraces the benefits of technologies, creating the **first global and accessible online conference** aimed at addressing the significant challenges faced by blind and low vision people resulting from the severe crisis that has arisen from the COVID 19 pandemic.

**Over 3,500 blind and severely visually impaired people from nearly 190 countries over the world will participate in the World Blindness Summit Madrid 2021** to share their experiences and practices developed over the past five years, and especially those implemented to cope with the effects of the pandemic in all spheres of life of blind and low vision people throughout the planet.

The achievements and challenges experienced will be analysed, priorities will be set in this new era beginning by working hard to prevent blind and low vision people from being left behind in the digital revolution that has made such great progress in the past months. On the other hand, new strategies will be worked on to give visibility to the reality of our group of people, and, above all, to promote everything that contributes to the substantiation of a central goal: to create a new vision of blindness, to enable these people to fully participate in any aspect of vital progress.

## **COSP<sub>14</sub> VIRTUAL SIDE EVENT | DISABILITY-INCLUSIVE CLIMATE ACTION: WHY AND HOW?**

Presented by the [International Disability Alliance](#) (IDA) and the government of the United Kingdom, the 14th session of the [Conference of States Parties](#) (COSP) to the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD) took place on Tuesday, June 15th through Thursday, June 17th at the UN headquarters in New York.

**Sébastien Jodoin** moderated this exciting [Virtual Side Event](#) at the 14th Session of the Conference of the Parties on Wednesday, June 16, 2021 @ 8:30 AM EDT / 2:30 CET.



The International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the government of the United Kingdom presents:  
**Disability-Inclusive Climate Action: Why and How?**  
WEDNESDAY, JUNE 16 | 8:30AM (EDT) / 2:30 (CET)  
A VIRTUAL SIDE EVENT UNDER THE AUSPICES OF THE 14TH SESSION OF THE CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES

Moderated by

 Sébastien Jodoin, McGill University	 Asha Hans, SMRC	 Andrew Harper, UNHCR	 Pratima Gurung, Indigenous Person with Disabilities Global Network
 Sainimili Tawake, Pacific Disability Forum	 Elham Youssefian, International Disability Alliance	 Peter Kostishack, Global Greengrants Fund	As well as Dragoslav Jovanović, UN Climate Change Secretariat (not pictured)

The overarching theme of COSP<sub>14</sub> is “Building back better: COVID-19 response and recovery; Meeting the needs, Realizing the rights and Addressing the socio-economic impacts on persons with disabilities.”

In recent years, enhancing inclusion and participation of persons with disabilities in climate adaptation and climate mitigation policies and processes has attracted increasing attention of persons with disabilities and their organizations, as well as other stakeholders. This



event aims to provide an overview of the steps taken so far and future plans in this regard by OPDs, governments, United Nations Agencies, international networks, and the civil society. In particular, the event will pursue the below objectives:

1. Provide an overview on the impact of climate change on persons with disabilities and dearth of disability-inclusive climate adaptation and climate mitigation policies;
2. Discuss the experience of disability movement with climate action, the challenges for participation, and the plans for future engagement;
3. Learning about measures taken by different stakeholders such as the United Nations Framework for Climate Change Convention, the GLAD Network and donor agencies

### THE PHOENIX CONSULTATION | THE RIGHT OF CHILDREN AND YOUTH TO A HEALTHY ENVIRONMENT: BUILDING AN AGENDA FOR JUSTICE, EQUITY, AND EMPOWERMENT

From July 15-18, 2021, children, young people, adults, and elders from across Turtle Island / North America (Mexico, US, and Canada) came together at *The Phoenix Consultation: The Right of Children and Youth to a Healthy Environment: Building an Agenda for Justice, Equity, and Empowerment* to share their insights with one another and to co-create our key demands for climate justice, environmental rights, and children's human rights.



From this consultation, **The Phoenix Manifesto** has been developed. It is a set of collective demands empowering youth in the fight for climate justice.

**DICARP** has contributed to this endeavour by its very own **Dr. Yolanda Muñoz**, who has been fastidiously working with these children and youth from around the world to empower each other and our communities.

This event followed the pre-consultation training on **Youth in Participatory Action Research for Climate Action (YPAR)**, together with Royal Roads University. Continue reading for more information below.

[Read the Phoenix Manifesto here.](#)

[Read more about the Phoenix Consultation here.](#)



**2021 ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE HUMANITARIAN AFFAIRS  
SEGMENT SIDE EVENT | OUR VOICES COUNT: YOUNG PEOPLE WITH  
DISABILITIES AND CLIMATE ACTION**

Organized by [UNICEF](#) and [IDA](#)

On **Thursday 24 June 8:30 to 10:00 AM CET**, UNICEF and the International Disability Alliance provided a forum for exchange, moderated by **Dr. Yolanda Muñoz**, with the participation of our Advisory Panel member **Dr. Karina Chupina**, on how persons with disabilities and their representative organizations can participate in climate action at a local level. In particular, this event engaged young persons with disabilities in identifying effective strategies to strengthen their advocacy. This discussion built on the substantial gains that have been made in recent years in terms of strengthening participation by persons with disabilities as actors in humanitarian responses, including public health emergencies.



[Read more about the event here.](#)

**DISABILITY & CLIMATE CHANGE: WHY RESILIENT AND INCLUSIVE POLICIES  
MATTER**



Presented by the Yale DiversAbility Alumni Group & Yale Blue Green, this thought-provoking event featured two DICARP members: **Dr. Yolanda Muñoz** and **Marcie Roth!**

This livestream featured a dialogue with an international panel of experts and scholars on the intersectionality of disability and climate change, including discussions on current environmental policies, exclusionary planning and infrastructure, and ways in which we can develop a more sustainable and accessible world. The speaker

lineup consisted of Marcie Roth, executive director & CEO of the World Institute on Disability;



McGill Centre for  
Human Rights  
and Legal Pluralism



Centre sur les droits de la  
personne et le pluralisme  
juridique de McGill

Sasha Kosanic, lecturer & physical geographer at Liverpool John Moores University; Yolanda Muñoz, project coordinator (Disability-Inclusive Climate Action Research Programme) at McGill University; and Valerie Novack, disability policy researcher and a PhD candidate (Land Use Planning and Management/Development) at Utah State University.

“Disability has very fluid limits. Disability happens in life,” Muñoz said. “So, it is important for everybody to get rid of all the prejudices, the fears, the tragedy, all that stuff, and understand that this is a matter of social justice.”

[Watch the event here.](#)

[Read more about it here.](#)

## DISABILITY & PHILANTHROPY FORUM | CLIMATE CHANGE & DISABILITY

In order to meaningfully respond to and combat our changing climate, philanthropy must include disabled people in their efforts to better understand and fund solutions. On September 23, 2021, John D. joined Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation President and CEO John Palfrey in conversation with disability and climate justice activists Daphne Frias, Valerie Novack, and Dr. Yolanda Muñoz to learn about the intersections between disability and climate change and to explore philanthropy’s role in supporting meaningful community-based solutions.

Disability & Philanthropy Forum

Disability & Philanthropy Webinar Series

Moderated By: John Palfrey

Daphne Frias

Dr. Yolanda Muñoz

Valerie Novack

**CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISABILITY**

Date: September 23, 2021  
Time: 2:00 PM EST

Register:  
[bit.ly/DisabilityPhilanthropySeries](https://bit.ly/DisabilityPhilanthropySeries)

This free webinar is part of a series focusing on the connections between disability and key social justice issues, made possible by the Presidents' Council on Disability Inclusion in Philanthropy. The expert panel include DICARP’s **Dr. Yolanda Muñoz!**

This event is very useful and motivating for those who wish to continue producing knowledge and building bridges between disability and climate change philanthropists and human rights advocates.

[Watch the recorded webinar and access the full transcript here.](#)



## ONGOING PROJECTS

### DISABILITY RIGHTS AND CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN INDIA

Researchers from DICARP, along with colleagues from the McGill Faculty of Law, the McGill School of Physical and Occupational Therapy, the McGill Department of Integrated Studies in Education, the Concordia Department of Geography and Environment, Leiden University, Manipal University, and IIT-Madras are collaborating on a SSHRC-funded research project on disability rights and climate adaptation in India.

Despite growing international recognition of the importance of addressing the impacts of climate change for disabled persons, little is known about the intersections of disability and climate adaptation policies and processes. As countries move forward with designing and implementing measures to adapt to the consequences of climate change, it is critical that we understand how these efforts can be designed and implemented in ways that respect and protect the rights of disabled persons and enhance their climate resilience. This research project will address these gaps in knowledge through legal, policy, and qualitative research focused on the relationship between disability and climate resilience in India, a country that is facing a range of climate risks and that has taken important steps towards disability inclusion in many fields, including disaster risk reduction.

### YOUTH IN PARTICIPATORY ACTION RESEARCH FOR CLIMATE ACTION

Hosted by Royal Roads University and with the wholehearted leadership of Dr. Yolanda Muñoz, the Youth in Participatory Action Research for Climate Action ([YPAR](#)) is part of a coalition of leading children's rights academics and participatory researchers. We are collaborating to bring the voice of youth to the forefront in the fight towards climate justice.

This initiative is part of the [North American Phoenix Consultation](#), organized by the [David Suzuki Foundation](#), the Children's Environmental Rights Initiative, the [International Institute for Child Rights and Development](#) and affiliated with [Royal Roads University](#).

#### What is Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR)?

"Action research is a participatory process concerned with developing practical knowing in the pursuit of worthwhile human purposes. It seeks to bring together action and reflection, theory and practice, in participation with others, in the pursuit of practical solutions to issues of pressing concern to people, and more generally the flourishing of individual persons and their communities."



By: Peter Reason and Hilary Bradbury,

<https://organizingengagement.org/models/participatory-action-research-and-evaluation/>

### What is our goal?

It is our goal that young people and their allies will be empowered to use this opportunity to build relationships that link local, national and international levels and foster intergenerational dialogue and collaboratively plan follow-up actions, next steps, and initiatives that directly nurture the momentum of the youth-led climate and environmental movement.

As well, key findings from this unique and rich exchange will be captured in a regional report to the United Nations, providing a framework for further joint advocacy initiatives at the regional level, and contributing to CERI's broader mission under the auspices of the UN Special Rapporteur on Human Rights and the Environment to shape and secure international recognition by States of a Global Charter on Children's Rights and the Environment.

## **ENABLING COMMONS PODCAST**

[The Enabling Commons podcast](#) is a space for dialogue among persons with disabilities and their allies to explore strategies that will transform our environments, our commons, to be meaningfully enabling for all.

In each episode, we have conversations with activists, experts, and scholars at the intersections between disability and climate change, unpacking and sharing knowledge.

The music featured in the podcast is an excerpt of Piano Trio No7 in B-flat Major Op97 (Beethoven) by Claremont Trio, curated by the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.

[Click here to access the Enabling Commons Spotify page.](#)

Episodes include rich dialogues with DICARP team leaders and leading experts in disability and climate justice, such as Marcie Roth, the CEO of the World Institute on Disability; Carlos Kaiser, the Director of Inclusiva, a Chilean NGO; and Nkhasi Sefuthi, the Executive Director of Lesotho National Federation of Organizations of the Disabled (LNFOD).



## APPENDIX: RESOURCES

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## ORGANIZATIONS ACTIVE ON DISABILITY AND CLIMATE CHANGE

[Center for International Environmental Law](#)

[CBM Global](#)

[Global GreenGrants Fund](#)

[Inclusion International](#)

[International Disability Alliance](#)

[International Institute for Environment and Development](#)

[Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights](#)

[Overseas Development Institute](#)

[Pacific Disability Forum](#)

[Sustained Ability](#)

[World Institute on Disability](#)

[World Federation of the Deaf](#)