



Biography

Kristina Engwall is Associate Professor and senior lecturer at the Department of Social Work at Uppsala University. She received her PhD in history from Örebro University in 2001. She then worked for just over ten years as a researcher at the Institute for Future Studies, focusing on children and families. In 2008, she joined a Municipal Research and Development Unit as a research leader with a focus on disability. From 2012-2020 she was Head of the Municipal Research and Development Unit, working with practice-based research. She specialises in disability studies, including disability history, gender and critical social work.

Digital Inclusion for People with Intellectual Disabilities: Post-Pandemic Prospects

People with intellectual disabilities (ID) are lagging behind when it comes to digitalisation. Despite decades of attempts to include people with ID in the digitalisation process, progress has been slow. The pandemic changed this and offered a radical change. The politics of physical distance and closure of day centres led to the transformation of many activities for people with ID into digital activities. This adaptation brought obstacles, but also many new ideas, hope and inspiration. People with ID and staff saw new possibilities in digitalisation. But today, when the possibilities of physical meetings are open again, some of the initial engagement is fading. Many digital plans have not been realised. Possible reasons are discussed, including organisational barriers, the role of staff, and the tyranny of tradition.