

ShowNotes

Episode 17: **The Faults in Our Systems**

Summary of Episode:

Hanna Björg Sigurjónsdóttir and Jim Rice have extensive knowledge of the Child Welfare System in Iceland. They speak to the faults and preconceived biases that the system can impose and how detrimental it can be, especially to parents with intellectual disabilities.

Biography:

Hanna Björg Sigurjónsdóttir is a Professor of Disabilities Studies at the School of Social Sciences University of Iceland. One of her main focuses of research through the years has been on families headed by parents with Intellectual and developmental disabilities. For three decades she has worked closely with many families as an advocate and through participatory research. In recent years, she has worked closely with dr. James Rice on research on custody deprivation.

James G. Rice is an associate professor of anthropology at the School of Social Sciences, University of Iceland. He received his doctorate in anthropology from Memorial University of Newfoundland, Canada, in 2007 and has been a member of the Centre for Disability Studies, University of Iceland, since 2008. His research interests in recent years have focused mainly on child protection cases pertaining to parents with disabilities. He has recently published in *Laws*, *British Journal of Learning Disabilities*, *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research* and co-edited (with Hanna Björg Sigurjónsdóttir) *Understanding Disability Throughout History: Interdisciplinary Perspectives in Iceland from Settlement to 1936*, published by Routledge.

Titles and Contact Information:

Hanna Björg Sigurjónsdóttir
Professor in Disability Studies
University of Iceland
101 Reykjavík
hbs@hi.is

James Rice
Associate Professor
Faculty of Sociology, Anthropology and Folkloristics
University of Iceland
102 Reykjavík
james@hi.is

References:

Articles

Traustadóttir, R., & Sigurjónsdóttir, H. B. (2008). The 'Mother' behind the Mother: Three Generations of Mothers with Intellectual Disabilities and their Family Support Networks, *JARID Special Issue*, 21, 331-340.

Sigurjónsdóttir HB, Rice JG. 'Framed': Terminating the Parenting Rights of Parents with Intellectual Disability in Iceland. *J Appl Res Intellect Disabil*. 2017 May;30(3):543-552. doi: 10.1111/jar.12301. Epub 2016 Nov 23. PMID: 27878920.

Rice JG, & Sigurjónsdóttir HB (2018). Notifying Neglect: Child Protection as an Application of Bureaucratic Power against Marginalized Parents, *Human Organization*, 77, 112–121. <https://doi.org/10.17730/0018-7259-77.2.112>

Hanna Björg Sigurjónsdóttir & James G. Rice (2020) The weight of history: child protection and parenting with a disability in 20th Century Iceland, *The History of the Family*, 25:2, 214-229, DOI: 10.1080/1081602X.2020.1751236

Sigurjónsdóttir HB, Harwick R, Rice J. Balancing the scales: Custody deprivation and fostering in Iceland. *International Social Work*. 2019;62(4):1304-1309. doi:10.1177/0020872818819045

Rice JG, Bjargardóttir HB, Sigurjónsdóttir HB. Child Protection, Disability and Obstetric Violence: Three Case Studies from Iceland. *Int J Environ Res Public Health*. 2020 Dec 28;18(1):158. doi: 10.3390/ijerph18010158. PMID: 33379294; PMCID: PMC7796032.

Resources

The Special Interest Research Group on Parents and Parenting with Intellectual Disabilities was founded in 1996 at an international conference in Denmark which was organized by the Danish Ministry of Social Affairs and The EU Commission. The SIRG/PID was formally affiliated with the International Association on the Scientific Study of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD) in 2002. The mission of the Special Interest Research Group on Parents and Parenting with Intellectual Disabilities is:

- To create opportunities for international and multidisciplinary networking;
- To foster research and innovation;
- To expose social and systemic discrimination against and promote equalisation of opportunity for parents with intellectual disabilities and their children;
- To facilitate the translation of knowledge from research into policies and practices.

<https://iassidd.org/sirgs/parenting-with-intellectual-disabilities/>