DbI Webinars to be held on 22-26 June 2020

Call for Webinar Submissions

Deafblind International DbI is organizing a series of webinars around the theme

**Living with Deafblindness in a New Reality**

Each webinar will consist of a 1-hour presentation that has the goal of increasing our understanding of living with deafblindness. The current and new situation we find ourselves in, given the ongoing Covid-19 pandemic, raises new questions related to this topic, for example:

- *How can we explain to people with deafblindness what is happening?*
- *What are our existing tools and insights that can influence our next steps?*
- *How can we deal with social distancing when we need to communicate tactually?*
- *How can we use online tools for assessment, intervention and staff training?*
- *What topics do we need to reflect on to prepare for the future?*
- *What does this crisis mean to us as a community?*

Submissions for this webinar should consist of relevant topics linked to deafblindness, and give participants an overview of current challenges, solutions or perspectives. We strongly encourage the networks of DBI to make themselves visible by organizing one presentation.

Each presentation needs to be co-hosted by 2 individuals via the Zoom conferencing software (guidelines will be provided). The primary presenter is mainly responsible for delivering the presentation. Presenters are encouraged to use PowerPoint slides and/or other online materials to support their presentation with visual material. The secondary presenter is responsible for following the online chat comment during the presentation and to incorporate its content by engaging the primary presenter during the session (e.g., choosing themes and key questions from the chat and bringing them to the attention of the primary speaker). This interaction can have the format of a conversation.
International Sign Language interpreters will be available whenever possible. The spoken webinar language is English.

Presentations will be held around the clock in order to accommodate global time zones. If the presenters give their permission, they will also be recorded.

In order to propose a presentation, please provide:

- Name of primary and secondary presenters*
- Employment/professional affiliations of primary and secondary presenters
- DbI Network that is represented (if applicable)
- Whether the presenters give permission for a recording of their presentation
- Proposed title
- 200-word summary of the content / purpose / learning objective of the presentation

*if the second presenter can’t be provided, then state this in your submission and we will look for a second presenter to host the online-chat.

**How to submit:** Please send this information via email to walter.wittich@umontreal.ca before June 1st 2020

**Continuously updated information** on the webinar series: On https://www.deafblindinternational.org/conferences/dbi-webinars/

**Meet the Co-Chairs of the Scientific Committee:**

**Saskia Damen, PhD**
Assistant Professor, Inclusive & Special Needs Education/Deafblindness
University of Groningen
Senior Researcher, Royal Dutch Kentalis
The Netherlands

**Walter Wittich, PhD FAAO CLVT**
Assistant Professor, School of Optometry – Professeur adjoint, École d’optométrie
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Supporters:

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http://visionnetwork.ca/