

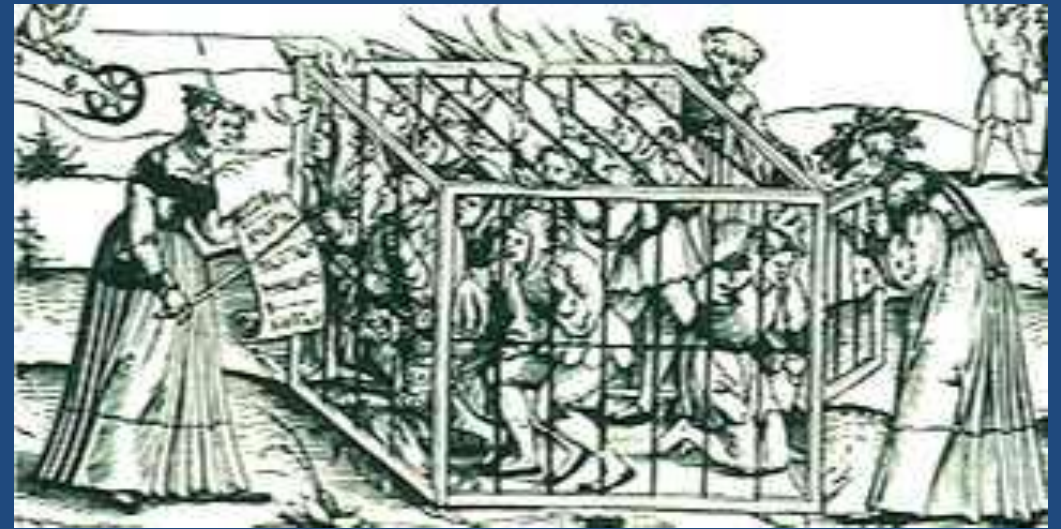
Disability

Aims

- To highlight the socio-cultural changes of our understanding towards disability and the definitions of disability.
- To develop our understanding of the concept of disability
- Become aware of the historical and cultural background
- To explore counselling services and disability
- Relationships and dynamics within the therapy process.

Historical context.

- Middle ages:
- “Idiot cages” were common place in town centres. They were used to keep people with disabilities out of the way.
- Townspeople may have mocked or goaded the individuals in the cages



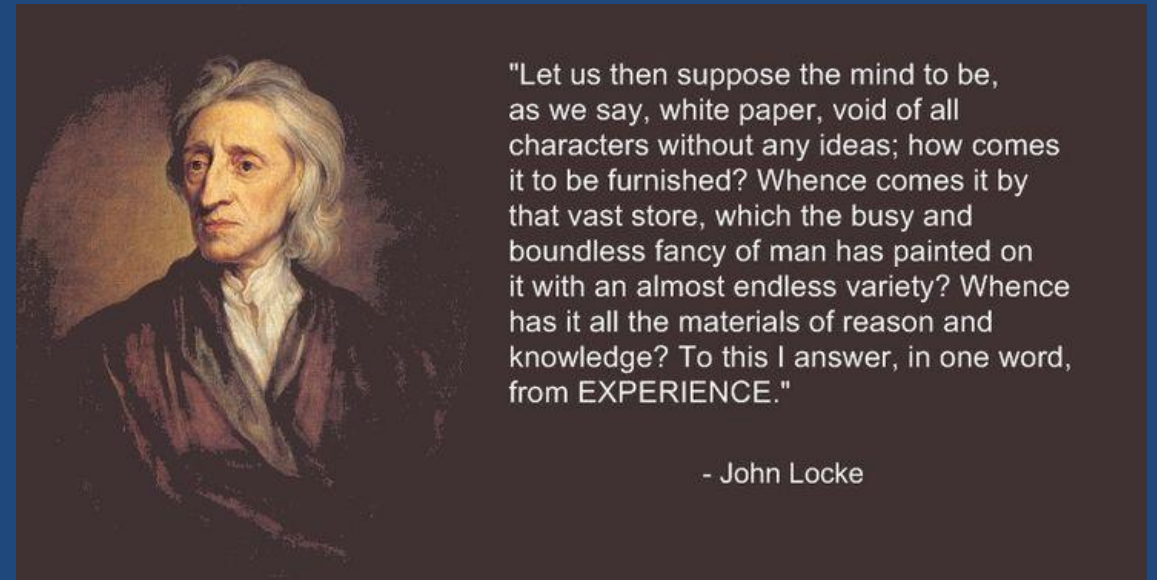
Geel, Belgium

- Foster Care Communities
- St Dymphna



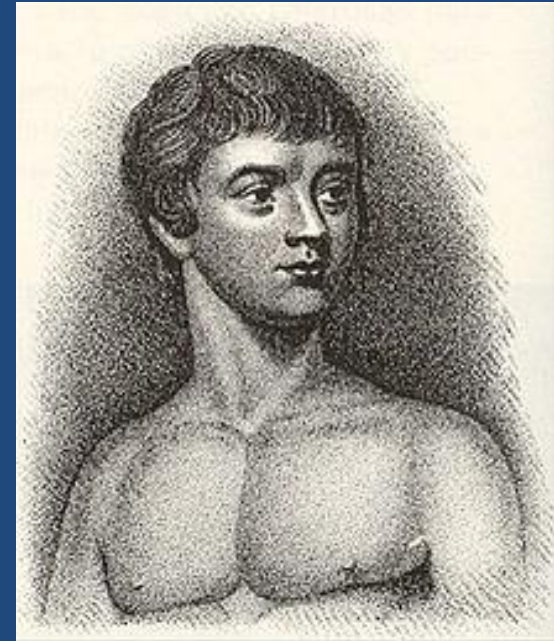
17th and 18th Centuries

- Constructive, scientific approach to individuals with disabilities.
- John Locke: *Tabula Rasas*: Blank Slates



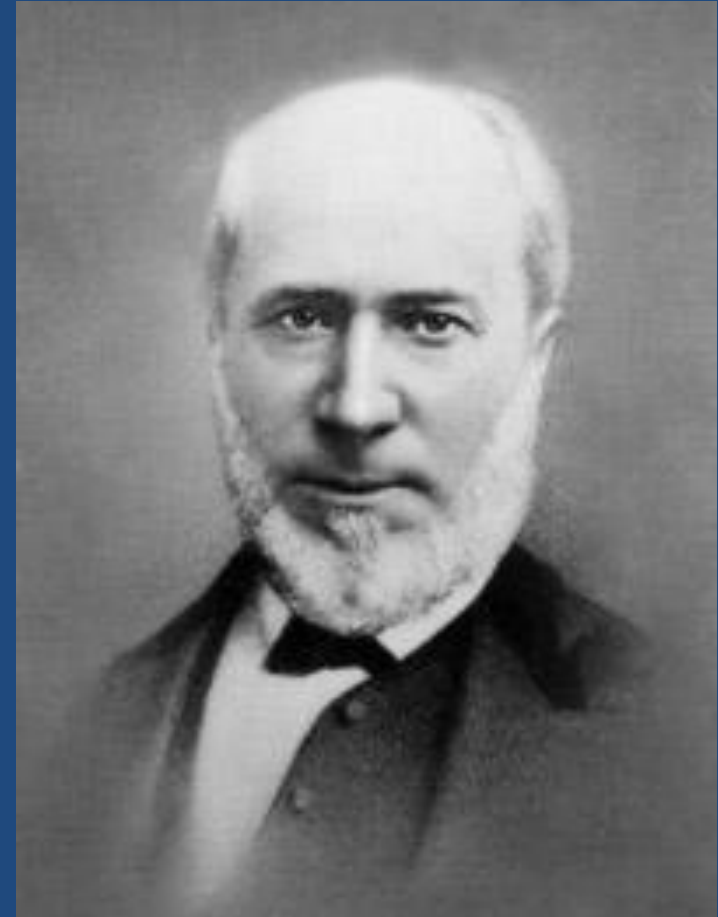
Itard and the Wild Boy of Aveyron

- Victor was chosen by Jean-Marc Itard as an experimental study, to explore the idea of the “blank Slate”.
- Victor was probably abandoned by his parents. Itard took him in with the idea that Victor could become “whatever he wants” or could be made into.
- Only limited success, however it had an influence on education in the following century.



Institutions (1800-1950)

- Poorhouses
- Extreme wealth and poverty
- People began to speak out about the conditions and neglect of people with disabilities.
- Esquirol
- Dix
- Seguin



Training School to Asylum

- During the 18th-19th Century there was a rise of training schools for children with disabilities.
- However the commitment to these training schools did not continue and eventually these schools became asylums.
- The 19th century saw greater segregation of disabled people. Disabled people were deemed 'worthless'. They were unable to work, could not be employed in the rapidly expanding industries.
- Disabled people turned more and more to the medical professions for cures.

Fear and Superstition

- During this period, people with disabilities became scapegoats. Instead of receiving protection, people with disabilities were viewed with suspicion.
- Overcrowding in the asylums worsened and often people in the institutions spent their entire day on a cot or on a floor in one room.

Eugenics

- What is your understanding of this word? How might it relate to disabilities?



Early 20th Century

- Eugenacist ideas lead to sterilisation and greater institutionalisation of disabled people.

Mental Deficiency Act 1913

- Categorisation of disabled people:
- Idiots
- Imbeciles
- Feeble minded
- Moral defective.

Children with disabilities

- 50,000 children with communication and physical impairments were institutionalised.
- Children with significant disabilities and learning difficulties were segregated until 1973.



Rights Movements.

- First World War veterans campaigned for the “Right to Work”.
- They formed the first disability movement in this country.



Today?

- Consider where we are today, regarding disability rights and confrontation.



Definitions of Disability

- 1980 WHO defined disability as “deficits in performance of activities resulting from physical impairment, where physical impairment is the deficit in structure or functioning of some part of the body” (World Health Organisation, 1980, cited in Feltham et al, 2017).
- What might be the problems with international classifications?

Social Model of Disability

- Is disability socially constructed?



Disability and age

- Prevalence increases with age. With an aging population there will be an increased need for support for individuals with disabilities.

Counselling and Disability

- How does all this relate to Counselling?



Disability Counselling Services

- What should they look like?



Disability, Diversity and Difference

- Taking disability to the wider context, what about BME, LGBTI etc?



Finally...

- Chronic Illness and Disability.
- Why do fewer clients actually present as disabled?