



FACULTY OF EDUCATION
UNIVERSITY
OF WEST BOHEMIA

Key Note Speakers

IASE 18th Biennial Conference 2024

In Conjunction with

University of West Bohemia, Czech Republic

Dr. Swenson is currently the President of Inclusion International, a global organization that advocates for inclusion of individuals with intellectual disabilities into their communities as valued neighbors and citizens. Prior to this position, Sue has served as the director of the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research and twice served as the acting secretary of the Office of Special Education and Rehabilitative Services. She has been appointed to disability leadership by 3 Presidents. She has also spent four years leading the Arc of the United States as its CEO.



Sue's work is also very personal. Her son Charlie was born with multiple disabilities. He was a strong, self-advocate and he also advocated for others. He passed away nearly ten years ago, in 2013. You'll learn more about Charlie and how he inspired Sue's work in her presentation entitled 'Parents as Partners in the Power of Inclusion.' To find out more about Inclusion International go to <https://inclusion-international.org/person/sue-swenson/>



Dr. Tobias Buchner, following positions at Trinity College Dublin/Ireland, University of Vienna/Austria and University of Halle/Germany, currently serves as Head of the Department of Inclusive Education at the University of Education Upper Austria. His main research interests are inclusive education, digitalization and space, ableism and education, learning biographies and inclusive research. Dr. Buchner has won several research awards, such as the ‘Science Award of the German Society of Educational Research’ in 2018. He conducted various national and international projects on inclusive and special education – both as principal investigator and cooperation partner. Furthermore, he has published in the most important peer-reviewed international journals of his field - and is editor of the German Handbook of Inclusive Research as well as the Routledge Handbook on Space, Education and Inclusion.



His work will be showcased in his presentation entitled ‘Exploring the Ability-Space Regimes of ‘Inclusive Education’ in Mainstream Schools.’

Professor Buchner also serves as the Chair of the Austrian Monitoring Board of the UN-Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities and Chair of the Inclusive Education Special Interest Research Group of the International Association of the Scientific Study of Intellectual and

Developmental Disabilities (IASSIDD).



Dr. Girma Berharu earned his PHD in 2001. Dr. Berharu is currently a professor of special education at the University of Gothenburg, Sweden. He has extensive experience working with varied research objects in his research environment (PRIS). He is a coordinator of the Research Environment. The ‘research objects’ are participation, communication, and learning of children and adults in various contexts and situations. The interactions between individuals and their surroundings and the preconditions for accommodating the differences among all individuals are central. His general area of research interest is race, ethnicity and special education. Of special interest to him is also "group-based inequalities" in scholastic achievement and minority students learning and development in a globalized and post-colonial world.



His research and teaching interests are in the relationship between social and educational inclusion and, particularly, in the relationship between education and other areas of public policy in urban contexts. Education, Disadvantage and Places are his current area of research focus.

His current work and experiences will be highlighted in his topic entitled: 'Education and Support in Sweden for Refugees with Disabilities.'

Professor Berharu also collaborates with a number of international organizations and universities. He is associated with the International Center for the Enhancement of Learning Potential in Israel. He was a research associate there. He is the National Chair for Sweden: International Association of Special Education (IASE); Member of an International Consortium of Equity in Special Education (Stanford University/Arizona University); Member of The International Association for Cognitive Education and psychology and Scientific Advisory Board member for a number of Universities and projects.

