

CONFERENCE

# Learning is Visual

18 - 19 April 2024  
Bergen

 Western Norway  
University of  
Applied Sciences



## Our Road – Our Vision

Conference for Vision Teachers from Tanzania and Scandinavia  
**Program** 18 and 19 April 2024

### THURSDAY 18 April

09.30 **Registration** ENTRANCE AREA, K2 (GROUND FLOOR)

10.00 **Welcome** by Vision teacher Grethe T. Hegreberg (MD), Norway ROOM M408

10.10 **Song** by Emily Adomah Rimmereide Ajei

10.20 **A wider view on education and vision problems**

Prof. Gunvor B. Wilhelmsen, HVL, Norway

11.00 **The importance of vision for learning**

Special needs- and vision neurology teacher, Anne Ström, Kyrkostrands skola, Jakobstad, Finland

11.30 **Break**

11.45 **Developing a TCPD-curriculum in vision** ROOM M408

Representative from Tanzania Institute of Education, Tanzania

12.05 **Vision and reading among pupils in Standard 2**

Vision teacher John Urio, PhD-candidate and project assistant, Norway/Tanzania

12.30 **Challenges and possibilities with a master program in special needs. Having focus on Visual Challenges in Learning**

Dr. January Basela and Dr. Alponcina Pembe, Department of Educational Psychology & Curriculum Studies, College of Education, University of Dodoma, Tanzania

12.50 **Lunch** MAIN CAFETERIA, K1

14.00 **Visual demands after mild traumatic brain injury -  
A follow-up study after intervention with visual rehabilitation**

Vision neurology teacher, Misa Möller, PhD-candidate, Finland

15:00 **Break**

15.15 **Undetected vision problems among pupils with a  
hearing loss** (on Zoom) **ROOM M408**

Teacher for hearing impaired and Vision teacher,  
Alida Kauki, PhD-candidate, Patandi/Udom, Tanzania

15.30 **Working as a vision teacher in a municipality**

Vision neurology teacher, Eldbjørg Knudsen, Norway

15.45 **Stimulation in early childhood**

Senior lecturer, Dr. Ignasia Mligo, Department of Educational Psychology & Curriculum Studies,  
College of Education, University of Dodoma, Tanzania

16.00 **Break**

16.15 **Barriers in the Norwegian society – due to ableism? How to create an inclusive society.**

Dr. Gagan Chhabra, Head of Project Inclusion at The Atlas Alliance, Norway **ROOM M408**



17.15 **Competence in special need – why is it under pressure?**

Prof. Dr. Marion Felder, Koblenz University of Applied Sciences, Germany  
Contributed in SecEd (2017-2021) and LiV (2021-2025)

17.40 **Closing words**

19.30 **Dinner at Bryggen Tracteursted in Bergen (map)**

Norwegian vision teachers and our guests from Tanzania  
will share a good meal at one of the nice restaurants in  
Bergen



Anno 1708

**Bryggen**  
TRACTEURSTED



## FREDAG 19. April

09.00 **Velkommen**, Nevrosynspedagog Eva Iren B. Leirvik

ROM M408

09.15 **Læreres tanker om elevers synsvansker**

Spesialpedagog Ingrid Algerøy, Bergen

09.30 **Utfordringer knyttet til helsevesen og voksenopplæringen**

Synspedagogene Grethe T. Hegreberg, Stavanger, og Eva Iren B. Leirvik, Strand

10.00 **Et brukerperspektiv på rettigheten til voksenopplæring**

Førsteamanuensis Sølvi Marie Risøy, HVL

11.00 **Pause**

11.15 **Pupils with a neurological vision impairment**

ROM M408

Prof. Marion Felder, Koblenz University of Applied Sciences, Germany

11.45 **Foreldre til barn som er blinde – deres perspektiv på opplæring i skolen**

Sølvi Marie Risøy, HVL

12.15 **Lunsj**

HOVEDKAFETERIA, K1

13:15 **Forskning og kompetanse – utfordringer knyttet til visuelle problemer i skole og rehabilitering**

ROM M408

Prof. Gunvor B. Wilhelmsen, HVL

14.00 **Takk for nå og lykke til!**





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# Presenters at the conference



Teacher for hearing impaired and Vision teacher, **Alida Kauki**, Tanzania  
Alida is working at Patandi Teachers College of Special Needs education and is a PhD-candidate at the University of Dodoma. Her project is connected to the vision capacity of pupils with hearing losses. In the LiV project she has also been active in the education of the CPD-students.

**Dr. Alponcina Pembe**, University of Dodoma, Tanzania

Alponcina is an assistant lecturer at Department of Educational Psychology & Curriculum Studies, College of Education, University of Dodoma. She has post-doc-funds through the LiV-project and is engaged in the development and implementation of the masters program in special needs at UDom.



Neuro-vision teacher **Anne Ström (MD)**, Finland

Anne is a special needs teacher and vision teacher with a further education in the neurology of vision. First of all she is working with vision problems among pupils in school and is employed at Kyrkostrands skola, Jakobstad, Finland.

Neuro-vision teacher, **Eldbjørg Knudsen**, Norway

Eldbjørg has much experience of doing pedagogical vision assessments and reading stimulation for pupils with visual challenges. One case is presented in the chapter Reading starts as a vision process (chapter 6 in Tilpasset opplæring og Spesialpedagogikk i teori og praksis). She was an instructor in the project Securing Education for Children in Tanzania (2017-2021).







Vision teacher **Eva Iren Barkved Leirvik**, Strand, Norge  
Eva Iren is working with adults who are in the need of vision education or need to learn compensating strategies because of vision problems. She has also an extensive experience with students who are struggling with visual reading difficulties.

**Dr. Gagan Chhabra**, The Atlas Alliance, Oslo, Norway

Gagan is a blind researcher from India with master's degrees in special needs education, in business and administration, and in international social welfare. In his PhD Two worlds apart, yet similar? He compared the disability policies and employment experiences between young adults with visual impairments in Delhi and Oslo. Now he is leading projects for disability inclusion at the Atlas-Alliances.



Vision teacher **Grethe T. Hegreberg (MD)**, Norway  
Grethe is a vision teacher with a master's degree in special needs focusing on vision challenges in reading. She provides training to visually impaired adults and is a specialist in evaluation vision functions and implement training of stroke patients with visual difficulties. She is working at Johannes Læringscenter, Stavanger.

Primary school teacher **Ingrid Algerøy**, Bergen

Ingrid ended her five year long teachers education with a masters degree in special needs education at HVL. Her she interviewed teachers to get insight in what they know about the connection between pupils learning, reading and vision.



**Dr. Gunvor B. Wilhelmsen**, Norway

Gunvor, a retired professor in special needs, has worked with problems connected to vision for half a century. Her special focus of interest has been on the neurological of vision, ocular motor problems, rehabilitation, reading and simulation. This has resulted in several articles, book chapters and lectures.

**Dr. Ignasia Mligo**, University of Dodoma (UDom), Tanzania

Ignasia is a senior lecturer at the Department of Educational Psychology & Curriculum Studies. Her main area of interest is Early childhood development and she has presented this thematic in several articles. She is part of the team developing and implementing the master study in special needs education.







**Dr. January Basela**, University of Dodoma (UDom), Tanzania  
January has a PhD in Education. Today he is a lecturer at the Department of Educational Psychology & Curriculum Studies. He is involved in developing and implementation of the master study of special needs education in the LiV-project. This master study has a program for hearing impairment and the LiV-program in vision.

Vision teacher **John Urio**, Norway/Tanzania

John is a vision teacher at Patandi Teachers College of Special Needs, and project assistant at HVL for the LiV-project (2021-2025). In his PhD-research he studied the connection between vision functions and pupils reading speed. He has been active in educating the CPD-students at Patandi and the master students at UDom.



Professor, **Dr. Marion Felder**, Koblenz University of Applied Sciences, Germany  
Marion has a long career teaching children with neurological vision problems as a vision teacher in the USA. This thematic was also her focus in her PhD. She is from 2017 an important member of the HVL team in the Tanzanian projects. She has a long list of articles and book chapters in special needs and in social work.

Neuro-vision teacher, **Misa Möller**, Helsinki University, Finland

Misa has worked with children, young people and adults with visual impairment and vision problems of neurological research for several years. She has had a special interest on strengthening eye motor skills and supporting learning. Now she is a PhD-candidate at the University of Helsinki on a project connected to vision problems after mild traumatic brain injuries.



**Dr. Sølvi Marie Risøy**, HVL, Norway

Sølvi is an associate professor in social work and has carried out research on a number of social thematic. But after she lost her vision in 2018, she has a special interest in the living conditions of the visually impaired. Do they have access to personal assistance on an equal basis as other groups of disabled people?