



**EQUALITY & RIGHTS  
ALLIANCE**

## ERA Seminar November 27: Speakers Biographies

### **Niall Crowley**

Niall Crowley is an independent equality and diversity expert. He has worked on research, evaluation, policy and training projects for a wide range of European institutions. He is currently chair of the Equality & Rights Alliance. He was Chief Executive Officer of the Equality Authority for ten years from its establishment in 1999. He is author of *An Ambition for Equality* published by Irish Academic Press in 2006 and *Empty Promises: Bringing the Equality Authority to Heel* published by A&A Farmer in 2010.

### **Tania Burchardt**

Tania Burchardt is Deputy Director of the Centre for Analysis of Social Exclusion (CASE) and Senior Lecturer in the Department of Social Policy, at the London School of Economics and Social Policy. She leads the programme of research in CASE focusing on equality and human rights which aims to explore the application of these concepts in the context of Britain and Europe in the 21st century, and to develop and implement a measurement framework based on the capability approach. Her research interests are: theories of social justice, including the capability approach; employment, welfare and exclusion; and equality and inequality in Britain. Tania has authored a number of reports to support the work of the UK Equalities Review, an independent, high-level, investigation of the causes of persistent inequality and disadvantage in British society, established as a precursor to the unified Equality and Human Rights Commission in the UK. Relevant publications include: Burchardt and Vizard (2011): "Operationalizing" the Capability Approach as a Basis for Equality and Human Rights Monitoring in Twenty-first-century Britain"; Burchardt, Evans and Holder (2010) "Measuring Inequality: Autonomy" ; and Burchardt (2008) "Monitoring inequality: putting the capability approach to work", in G. Craig, T. Burchardt and D. Gordon (eds) *Social Justice and Public Policy: "Seeking Fairness in Diverse Societies"*. Bristol: The Policy Press,

### **Elena Blackmore**

Elena Blackmore is a researcher at the Public Interest Research Centre in Wales. She has been involved with the Common Cause initiative - a collaboration between a number of social change groups - for several years. She was lead author of [Valuing Equality](#) commissioned by Equinet, the European network of equality bodies. She co-authored the forthcoming report *Building Bridges* (an analysis of the framing of human rights in the UK). She has a background in Psychology and International Development and her current

interests and research focus include understanding equality and intersectionality through the lens of values.

### **Neil Crowther**

Neil Crowther is an independent consultant focusing on equality and human rights, with a particular focus on the rights of disabled people. He previously held the posts of Director of the Human Rights Programme and Director of the Disability Rights Programme at the British Equality and Human Rights Commission. Before joining the EHRC Neil was Head of Policy at the Disability Rights Commission. He is co-author of "[\*Bridging the Divide: Integrating the Functions of National Equality Bodies and National Human Rights Institutions in the European Union\*](#)" University College London 2013. He is presently developing a manual for National Human Rights Institutions regarding their role in advancing the rights of persons with disabilities. He has also carried out work for the EU Agency on Fundamental Rights, the European Commission, OSCE, the UK Joint Parliamentary Committee on Human Rights, the Commonwealth Secretariat, Inclusion International, NUI Galway, the Irish Equality Authority and Disability Rights UK. He is Director of the Thomas Paine Initiative, a donors grant-making collaborative which aims to build public support for human rights in the UK. Neil is a Trustee of CHANGE which promotes the human rights of people with learning disabilities.