CV Susanna Cederquist

# **Presentation**

I developed an interest in dyslexia from an early age. From my own experience as a person with dyslexia and from people around me, I discovered that there is more to dyslexia than the limited perspective of describing it as reading and writing problems. It is rather about another way of thinking and functioning. Apart from the above-mentioned limitations, it also implies certain strengths, such as a more developed way of visual and holistic thinking, (“thinking in 3D”), creativity and problem solution. This idea was supported in my MA thesis from the the teacher education at the Royal College of Music, where I interviewed people with dyslexia.

In 2009, I started to lecture in the dyslexia field focusing on equality and sustainability. I was engaged by authorities, enterprises and schools to talk about the approach towards dyslectics, accessibility of texts, effectiveness of competence in education and workplaces. My mission is to increase people’s awareness of the whole picture of dyslexia and to make them understand the consequences of not regarding the full picture. The main goal is to contribute to the development of more inclusive environments where the dyslectic strengths are in focus. We are different and it is as it should be. We just need to acknowledge our differences.

In addition to the lectures, I am an advisor in the field of dyslexia to the educational board of the municipality of Stockholm and the board of the Foundation of prince Carl Philip and princess Sofia of Sweden. Moreover, I am an advisor to colleges and universities about accessibility and I give courses for university students with dyslexia and dyslectics in working life. The focus of the courses is to help persons with dyslexia to develop their self-understanding, value their competencies and find strategies for studies and/or work. Since the “text norm” is prevailing in the society, it is important to understand how it affects them.

In 2015, I published a book “Dyslexia + Strengths = True. During spring 2021 my new book “Dyslexia at school – see the whole picture” is being published.

I have a large international network and is chairman of WHOLE – InternatiOnal DysLExia StrengtHs NetWork and member in other international collaborations regarding dyslexia and neurodiversity. In 2019, I arranged a conference in Sweden called “Dyslexia and Creativity” as part of my former mission as project leader for VIDD – a three-year project on accessibility and education. In this conference I engaged some of the most prominent international speakers in this field.

**Education**

2007 Royal college of music degree of Master’s in Education. *Teacher in music for the compulsory and upper secondary school*, 270 credits

2007 Linköping University, *Music for children with special needs*, 7,5 credits

2013 Stockholm University, *Reading and writing disabilities/dyslexia*, 7,5 credits

2012 Uppsala University, *Special pedagogy in Sweden from an international perspective*, 7,5 credits

2012 Stockholm University, *Language, culture and thinking,* 7,5 credits

2013University of Skövde*, Cognitive psychology,* 7,5 credits

**Work life experiences**

2009- Lecturer, advisor and course leader in the dyslexia field

2007- Teacher in the compulsory school

2013- Guest lecturer and student coach at universities (e.g. Royal College of Music, Konstfack – University of crafts and design)

2017 – 2019 Leader of the accessibility project VIDD – The aim was to provide in-service training for teachers

# **Positions of trust**

2020- Chairman of WHOLE – InternatiOnal DysLExia StrengtHs NetWork

2016- Member of board of the dyslexia foundation of prince Carl Philip and princess Sofia of Sweden*.*

2015- The municipality of Stockholm, Advisor to the board of education on disabilities issues

2011- Member of the board of Pascal – an organization engaged in accessibility in education and culture

2015 Chair of the Stockholm regional board of the Swedish Dyslexia Union

**Awards**

2019 The Swedish *dyslexia price*

# **Publications**

Cederquist, S. (2009). *I’m unable to think flatly – how does this affect the way of making music*. Bachelor thesis, Royal Music College

Cederquist, S. (2015). *Dyslexia + Strengths = True*. Hägersten

co-author in: Sandh, H. (red.) (2019) Create WIDTH (Skapa VIDD) The association PASCAL - IMPRESSION on IMPRINT EXPRESS.

Cederquist, S. (forthcoming 2021). *Dyslexia at school – see the whole picture,* Sanoma Education

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