

11.12.20

**First Slide**

Hello, and please allow me to start this short speech by thanking the organisers of today's event for this opportunity to extend my thanks to the committee of the Caroline Gooding Memorial Fund for my award. I would like to take this opportunity to share a little about my research, and about how it speaks to the values and commitments espoused by Caroline Gooding in her own career as a lawyer, and as a disabled activist and a feminist.

**Second Slide**

**To begin by outlining my research:**

My PhD research, which has been part-funded by the award from the Caroline Gooding Memorial Fund, is a socio-legal exploration of the Mental Capacity Act 2005, and its relationship with the 'voice' of disabled people, and using this analysis to develop policy recommendations that equip statutory and other services, and Disabled People's Organisations with the tools to engage in an informed, empowered way with mental capacity law-in-practice, and to uphold and extend disabled 'voice' in this field.

**As an academic lawyer myself, and a disabled activist, and lesbian feminist,** I feel a strong personal connection with the work of Caroline Gooding, and the values that underpin that work. I have a professional background as a community advocate for disabled people, and the perspectives that I see when exploring Caroline's writing, and the accounts of her career – those of the complex, nuanced connections between law and the pursuit of social change, of the significance of collective, as well as individual identities, and of the importance of disabled community as a social movement in the fight for equality and liberation for disabled people resonate very strongly with me.

**From what I have read of Caroline Gooding's work,** as a "radical lawyer, feminist, and disability activist" I wish I could have met and talked with her. I am grateful, and feel hugely privileged that this award has allowed me not only the financial security to continue my own research without compromising my health – but to read, find out about, and be inspired by the work of a woman who is now one of my key influences. I thank the Caroline Gooding Memorial Fund Committee for this opportunity.

**I will conclude with heartfelt thanks** to all involved in securing the legacy of the work of such a pioneering woman.

Gill Loomes-Quinn

Transcript: Award Acceptance Speech to the Caroline Gooding Memorial Lecture

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**Third Slide**

You can find out more about my research via my website – [voicespaces.co.uk](http://voicespaces.co.uk), or by following me on Twitter @GillLoomesQuinn, and you may also be interested in checking out the project I co-founded with Celia Kitzinger – THE OPEN JUSTICE COURT OF PROTECTION PROJECT – which seeks to promote open justice in the Court of Protection through citizen journalism.