

THE LIFE STORY OF IAN DAVIES



A Study on Life Story Manga for People with Intellectual Disabilities

- January 2022 -

Sharing Life Stories through “manga”

A life story describes how a person has lived. Reading a life story can help us to learn more about the events and experiences that have shaped a person’s life, leading to greater understanding.

This project aimed to create a manga to share the life stories of people with intellectual disabilities. Masashige Nakanishi and Ian Davies, the main characters of the manga, communicate through their life stories what they want to do, and how they wish to live their lives. We hope many people can meet them and learn about their lives through this manga.

This manga is based on the experiences told by Mr. Nakanishi and Mr. Davies. Most scenes express what really happened, but some scenes have been adapted in order to make the events easier to understand.

(A Study on Life Story Manga for People with Intellectual Disabilities)



*Sharing
Life Stories
through
Manga*

Main Characters

A message from
Masashige Nakanishi



Hello everyone. I'm Masashige Nakanishi. A year ago, Ms. Moriguchi asked me, "We are going to make manga as part of a research project. Would you like to create your manga?" She explained that we had received some money from the Suntory Foundation to support this research. I replied that I would like to participate. I would like to use this manga for study sessions or lectures. Please invite me as a guest or panelist.


A message from
Ian Davies



Hi everyone, I am Ian Davies, a self-advocate from the UK. When I visited Japan in 2019 I told my life story to social work students. It helped them to understand my life in England, and what I had been through. Everyone has a story to tell. It's important that people with intellectual disabilities get a chance to share their stories too. It is brilliant to see my story in manga. I would like to share it with students and care workers to help them understand the lives of disabled people.

A Study on Life Story Manga for People with Intellectual Disabilities

A researcher of Social Welfare. Since around 2015, I have been studying with Mr. Masashige Nakanishi.




Hiromi Moriguchi

Language and Communication Researcher. Researching communication using pictures and pictogram. Researching expressions of sentences, pictures, and manga which people with disabilities can understand easily.



Kazuko Fujisawa

Researching the history of manga and how manga has an effect on people from various perspectives. Have been involved in giving feedback based on the research results to society since around 2010, such as developing "easy-to-read manga (LL manga)".



Kazuma Yoshimura

A researcher specializing in inclusive research. I have been working with Ian Davies for over 10 years.




Liz Tilley

Manga Production


Kyoto International Manga Museum

A manga artist who belongs to Kyoto Seika University. I drew the manga of both Masashige Nakanishi and Ian Davies during this project.

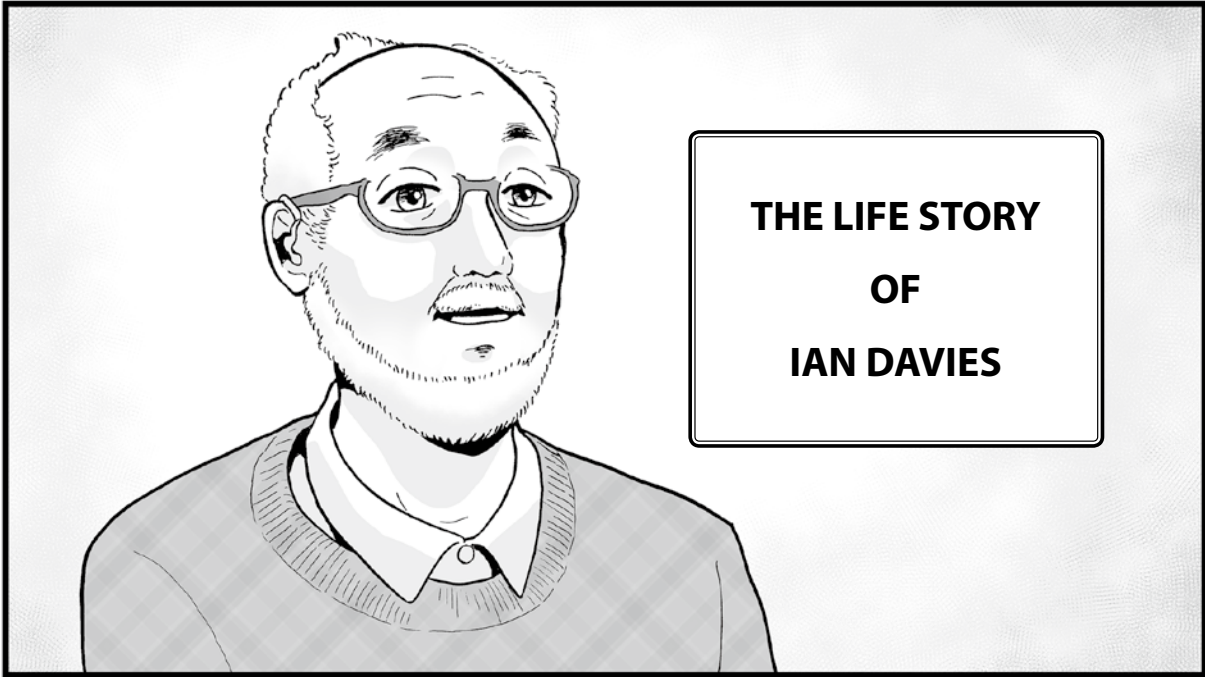


Fusako Noji

Editor of manga production at Kyoto Seika University (Kyoto International Manga Museum). In this project, I was in charge of schedule management and scenario composition.

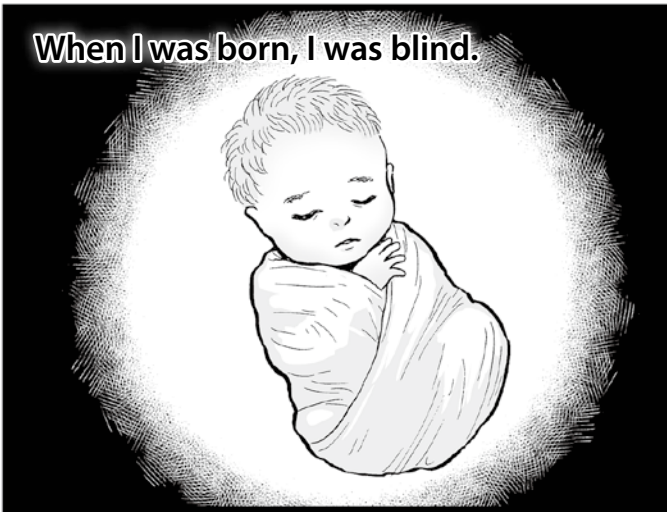


Yukako Iwamoto



**THE LIFE STORY
OF
IAN DAVIES**

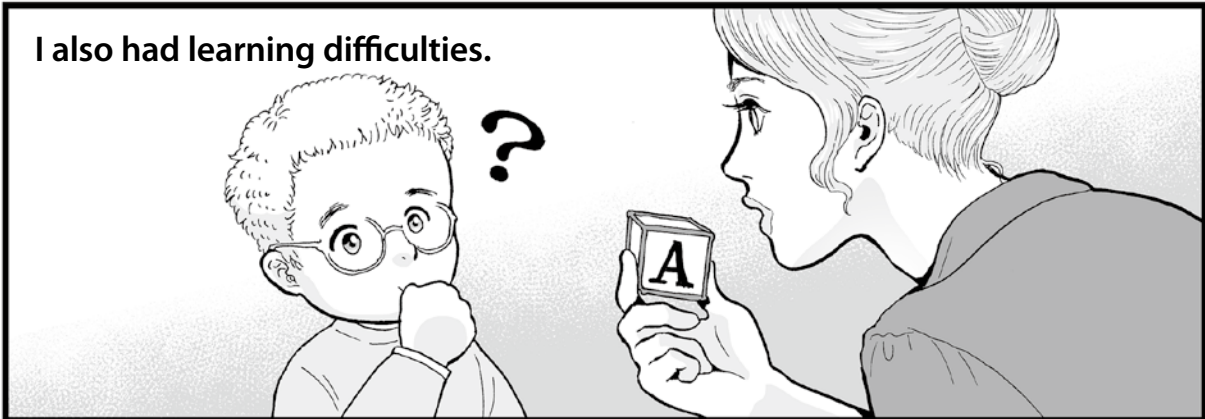
1. Early Life



When I was born, I was blind.

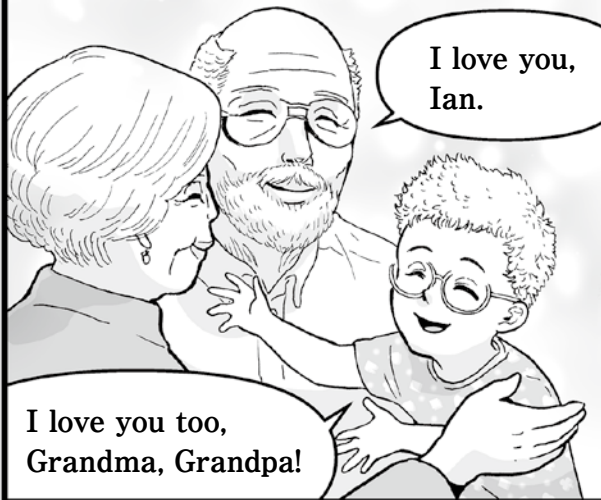


**But an early operation
helped save my eyesight.**

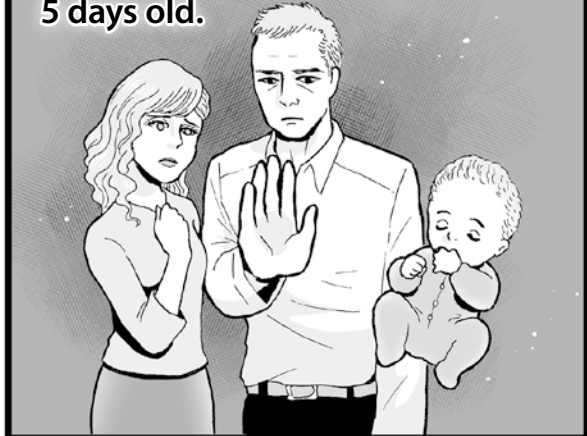


I also had learning difficulties.

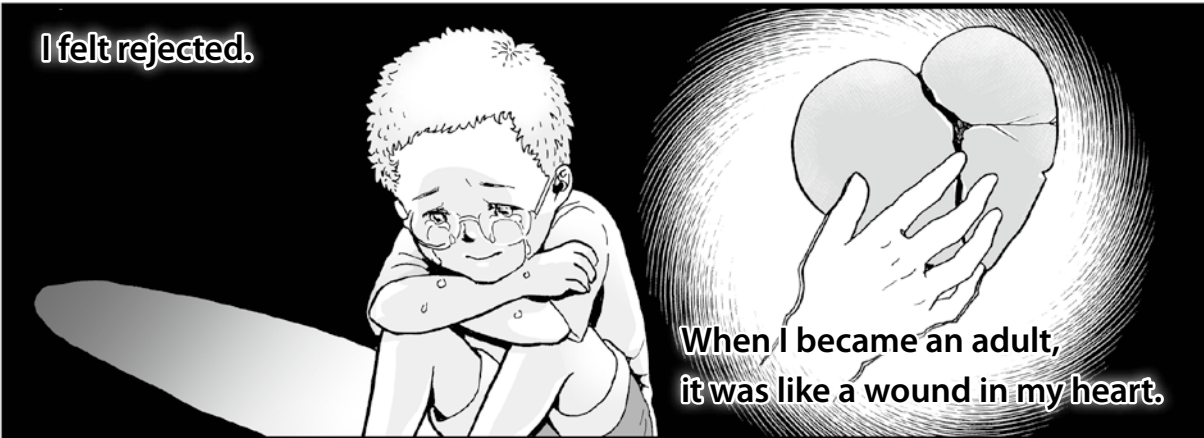
I was raised by my grand parents.



I happen to know that my parents refused to raise me when I was 5 days old.



I felt rejected.



Instead, my grandparents loved me like I was their own son.

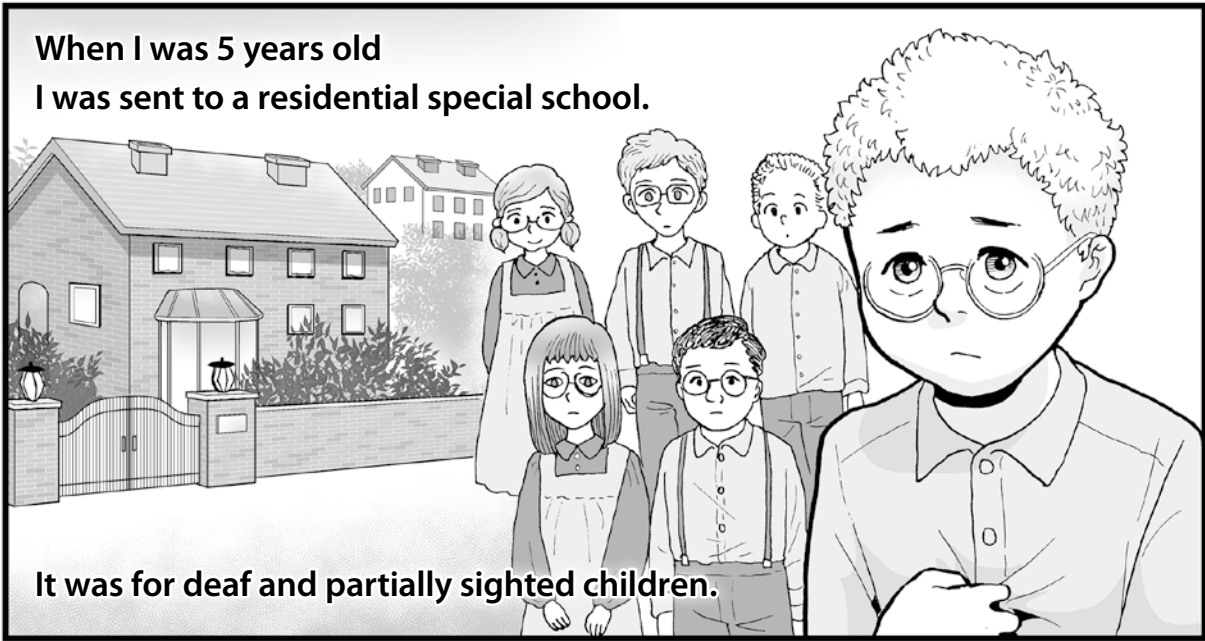


But my grandmother was over protective of me...



2. School Years

When I was 5 years old
I was sent to a residential special school.



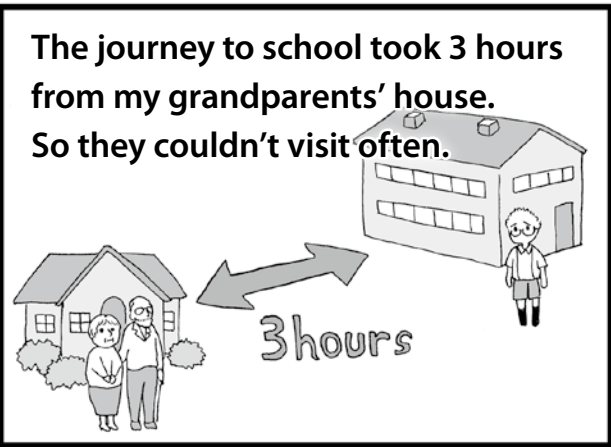
It was for deaf and partially sighted children.

I don't want to go!

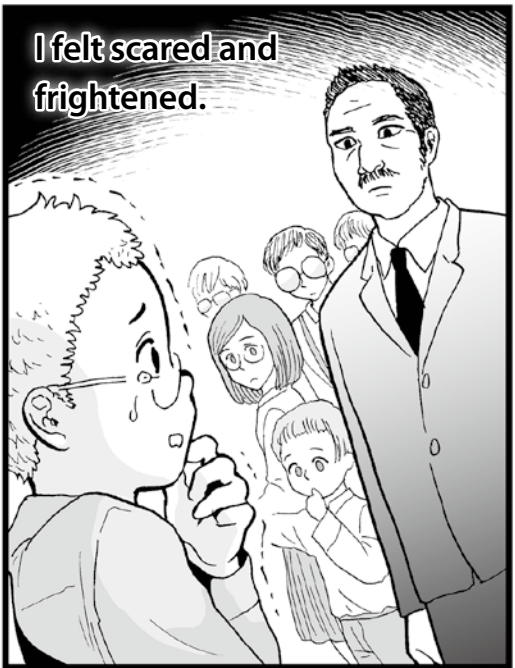
But you must, Ian.



The journey to school took 3 hours
from my grandparents' house.
So they couldn't visit often.



I felt scared and
frightened.



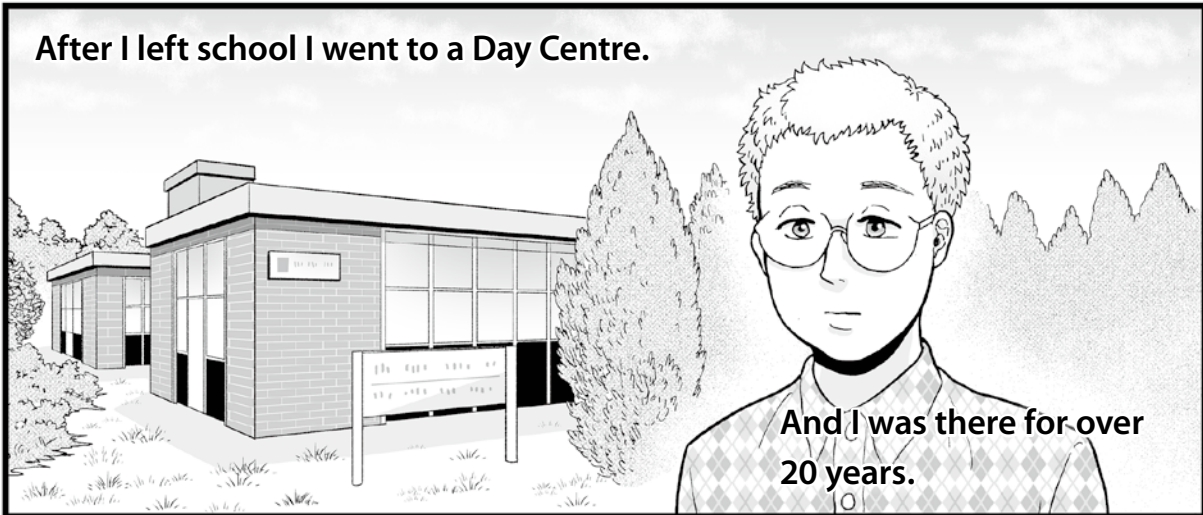
In school, it was hard for me to make
friends because I had learning difficulties.



I was very lonely.

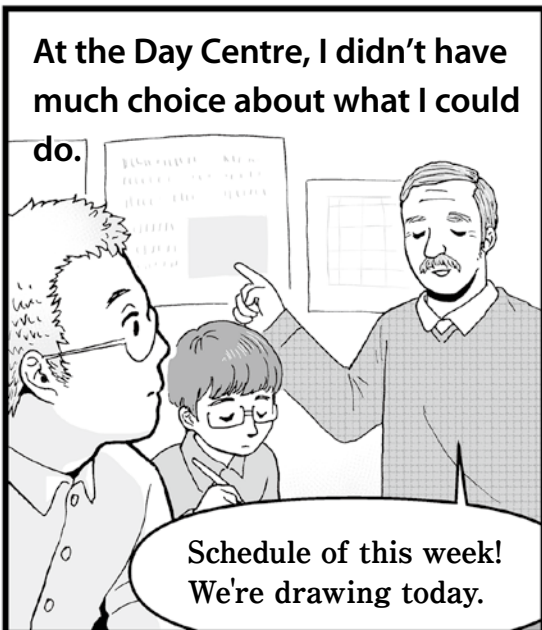
3. Day Centre Years

After I left school I went to a Day Centre.



And I was there for over 20 years.

At the Day Centre, I didn't have much choice about what I could do.



Schedule of this week!
We're drawing today.

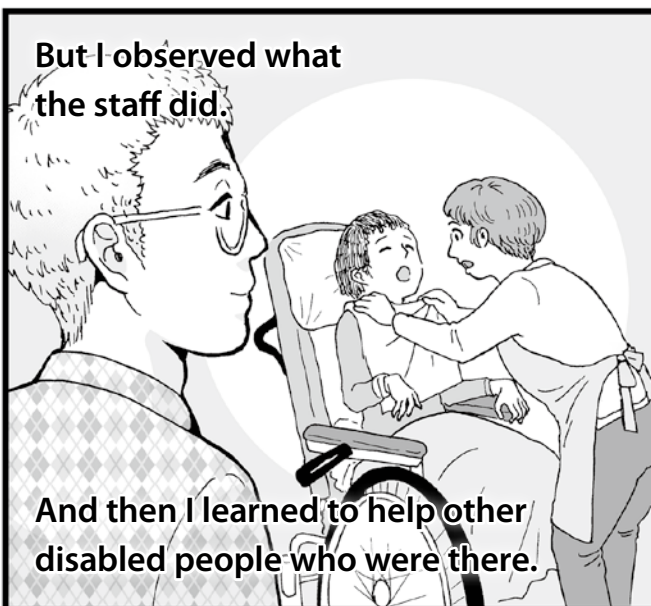
And there were a lot of things we weren't allowed to do.



Ian, you can't drink your coffee in here.

Oh, sorry.

But I observed what the staff did.



And then I learned to help other disabled people who were there.

Hmm, Ian can really help them.



After a few years...

Ian, I have an idea.

Why don't you volunteer as an escort on the minibuses?



I would really like that!

I began volunteering.
Eventually, I did this 5 days a week.



As you're volunteering, you can use the locker room with us, Ian.

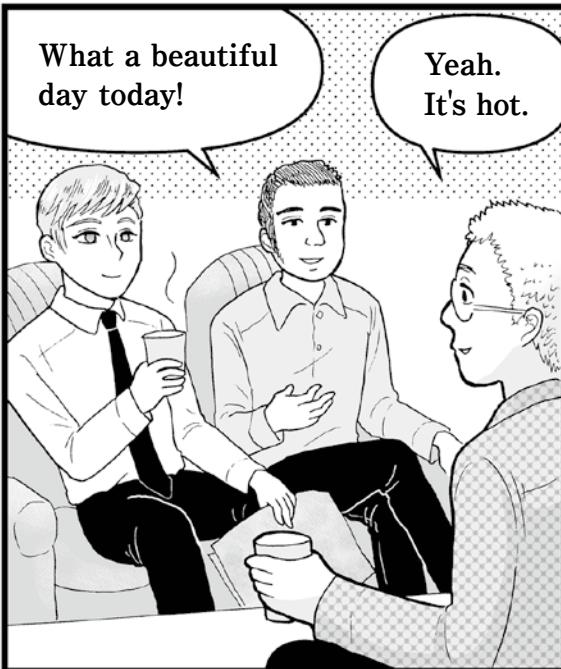


I can buy you a cup of coffee, Ian.

Thanks.

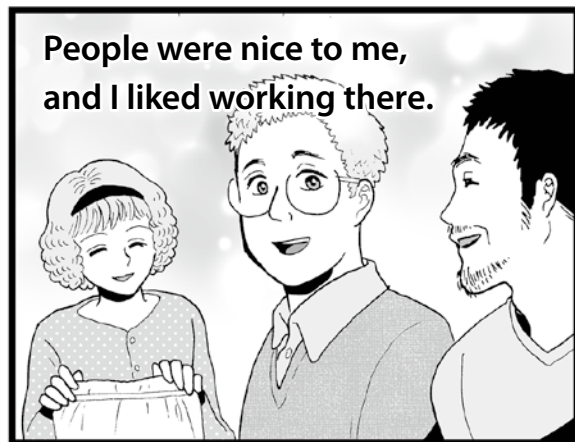
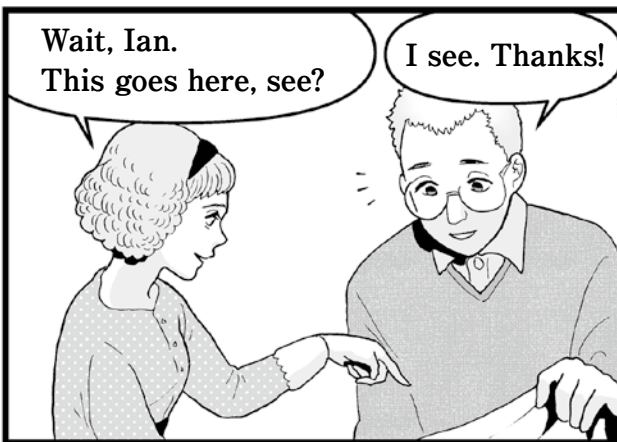
What a beautiful day today!

Yeah. It's hot.



But it was hard for me to socialize with members of staff outside of the Day Centre.

4. My Job



5. T-Shirt Incident

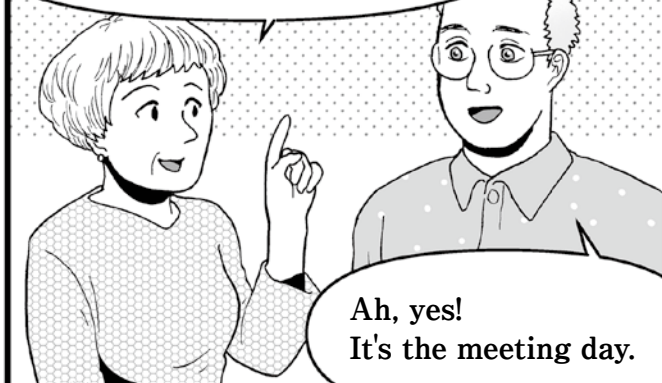


6. Coming back to the Day Centre

After I quit the job I went back to the Day Centre again.



Ian, tomorrow we're going to visit another Day Centre.



Ah, yes!
It's the meeting day.

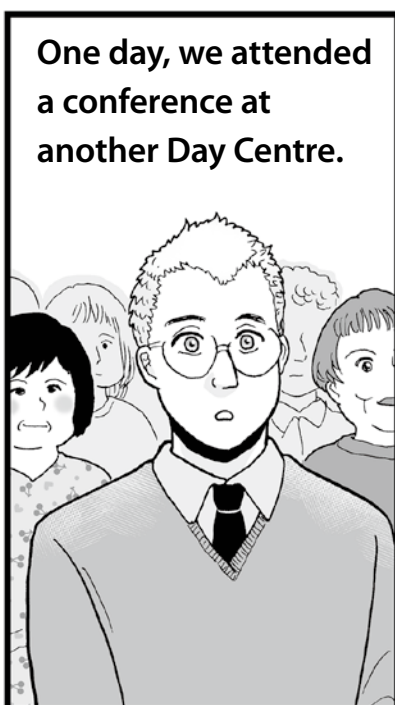
Things had changed at the Day Centre.

Now, with the support of staff,
we visited different Day Centres...

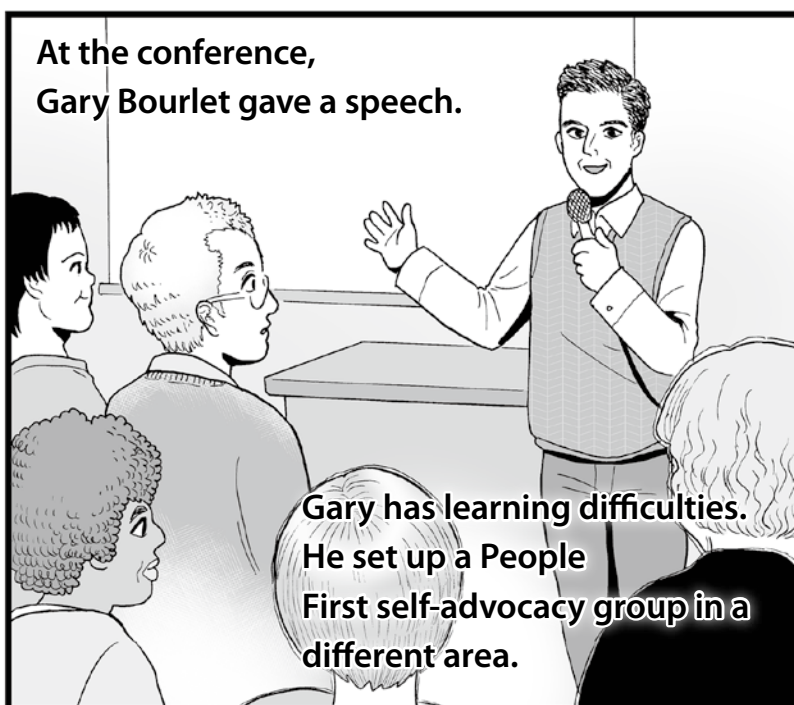


...to meet other disabled people.

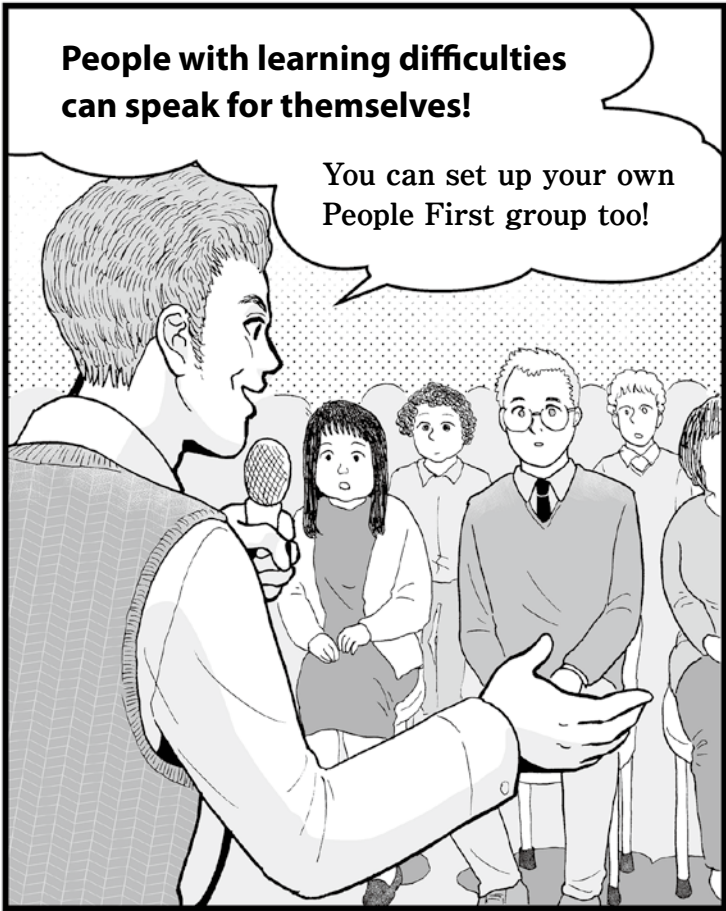
One day, we attended
a conference at
another Day Centre.



At the conference,
Gary Bourlet gave a speech.



Gary has learning difficulties.
He set up a People
First self-advocacy group in a
different area.



7. People First

People First is managed by people with learning difficulties.

And we help each other.

My doctor doesn't listen to me.

That's terrible.

And most importantly, we socialise and have fun together.

It's my first time on a boat! This is great!

We campaign together so that our voice will be listened to.

We have the right to use buses!

We want to access the bus!

WHY?

We write letters to politicians.

We want better services!

People listen to us.

We have been invited to local council meetings to give our views.

8. International Links

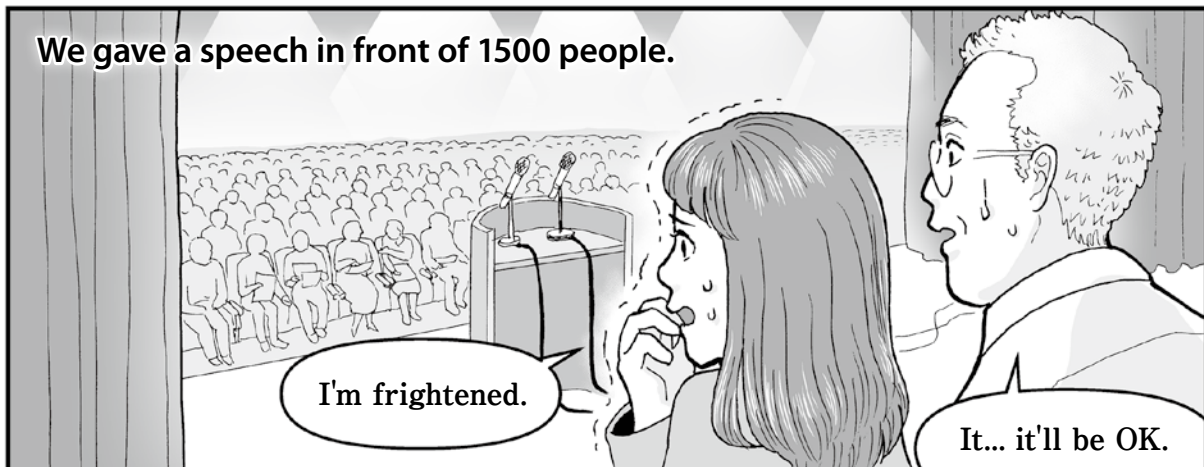
In 1993 I was chosen to go to the 3rd international People First Conference in Toronto, Canada.



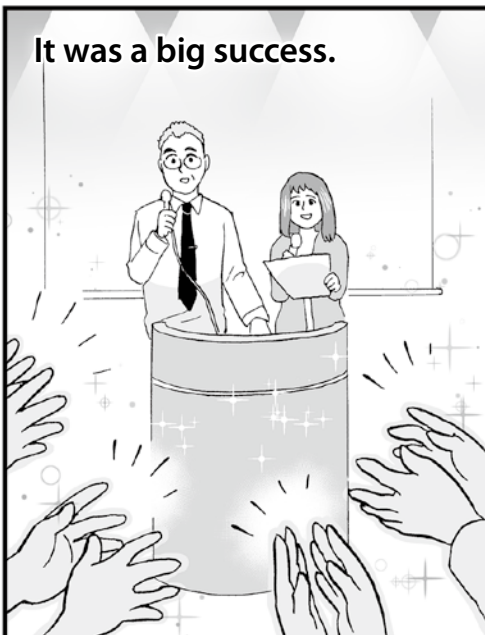
In 1996, me and another self-advocate called Karen went to Helsinki.



We gave a speech in front of 1500 people.



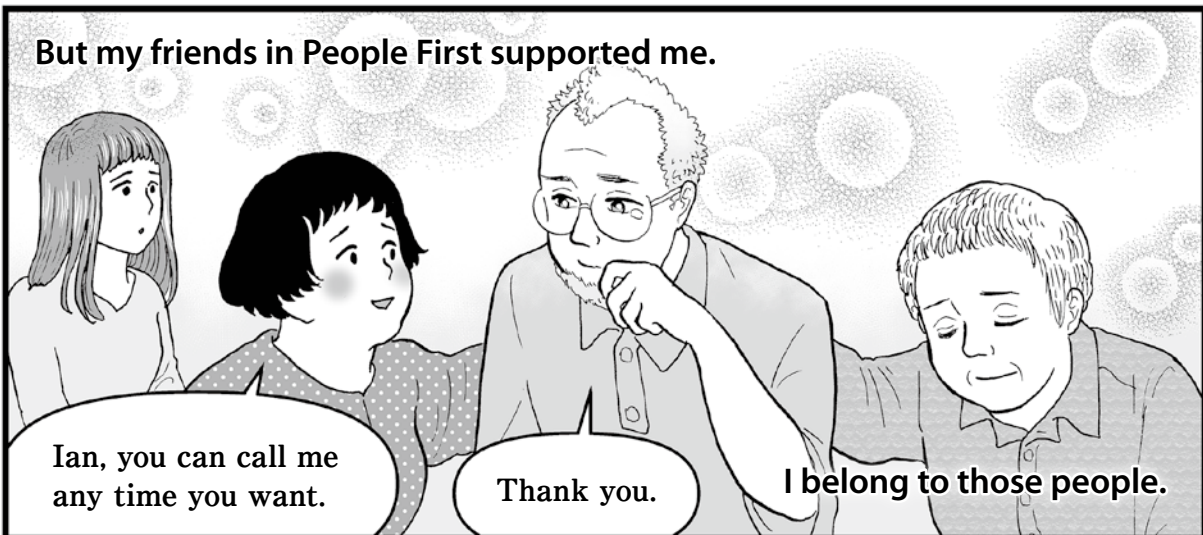
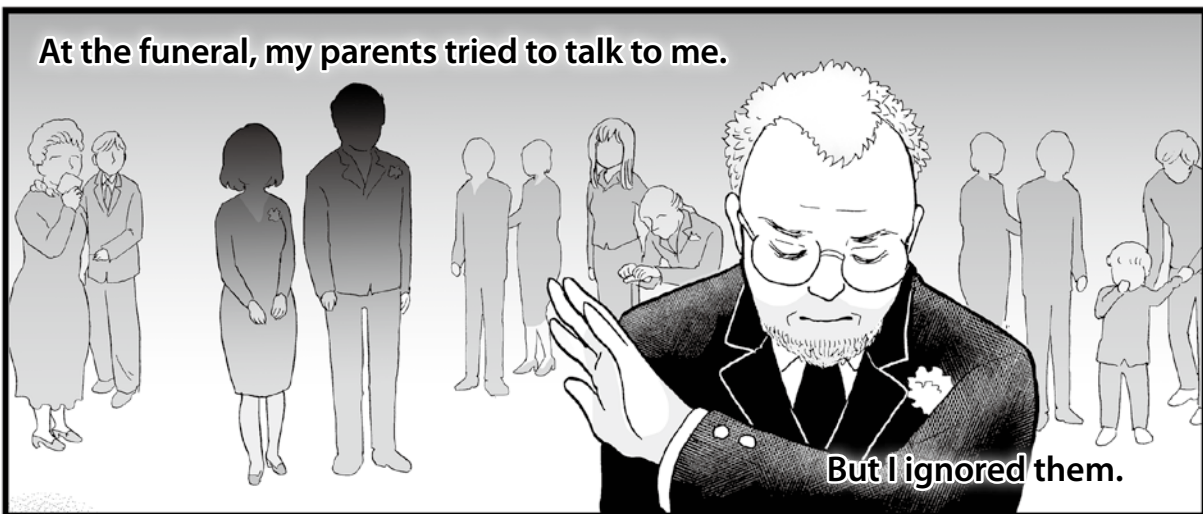
It was a big success.



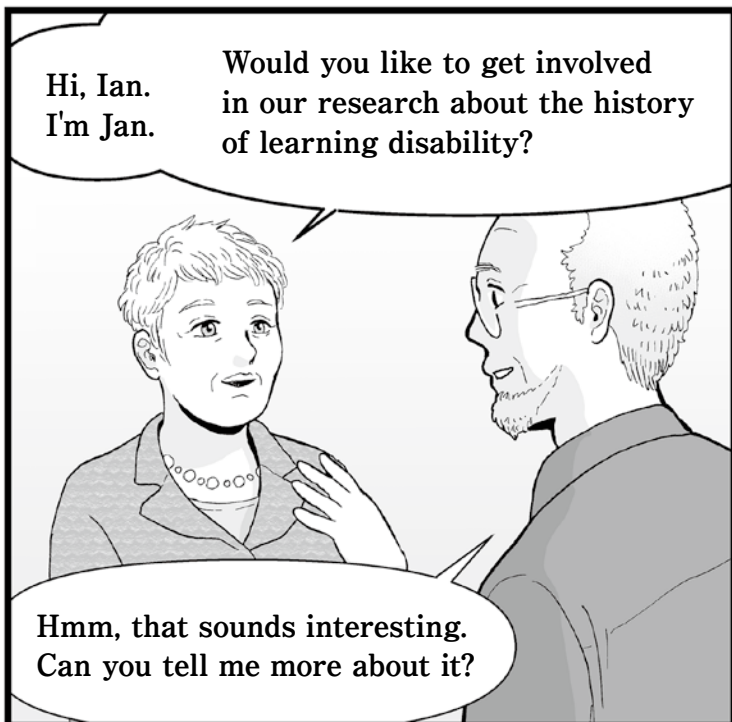
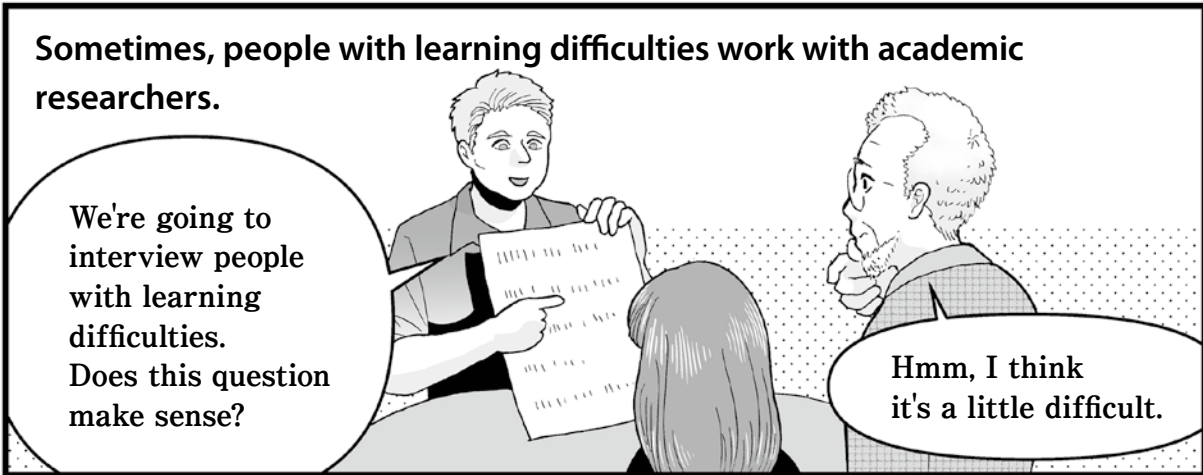
We were the first people with learning difficulties to be key note speakers at this conference.



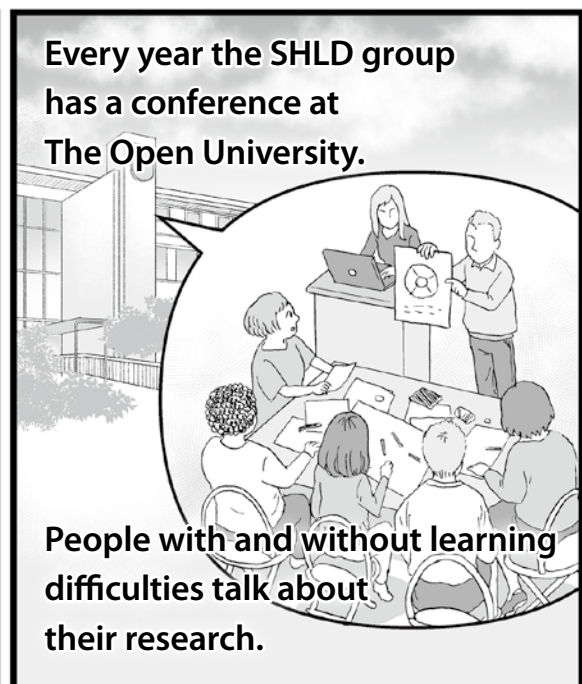
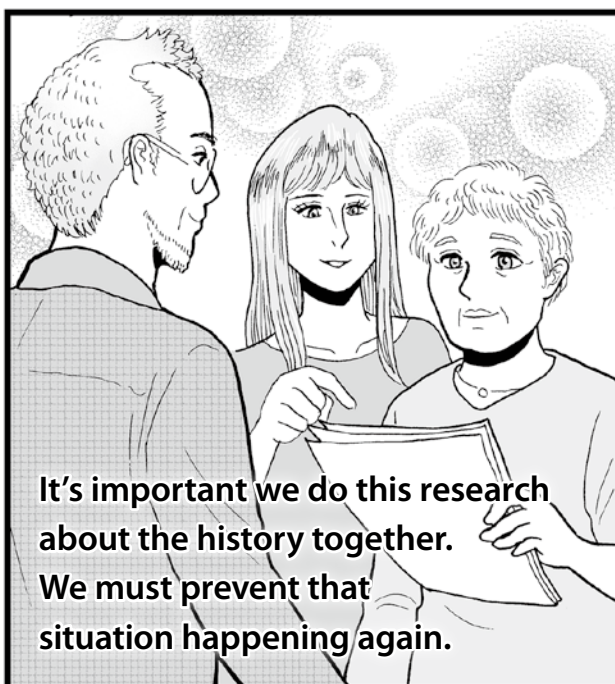
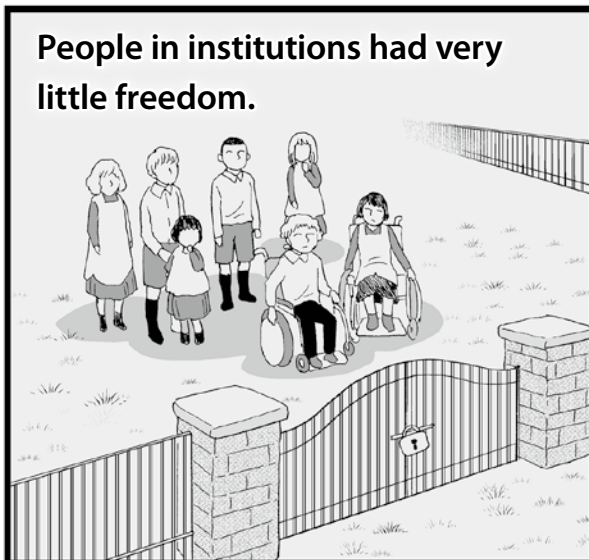
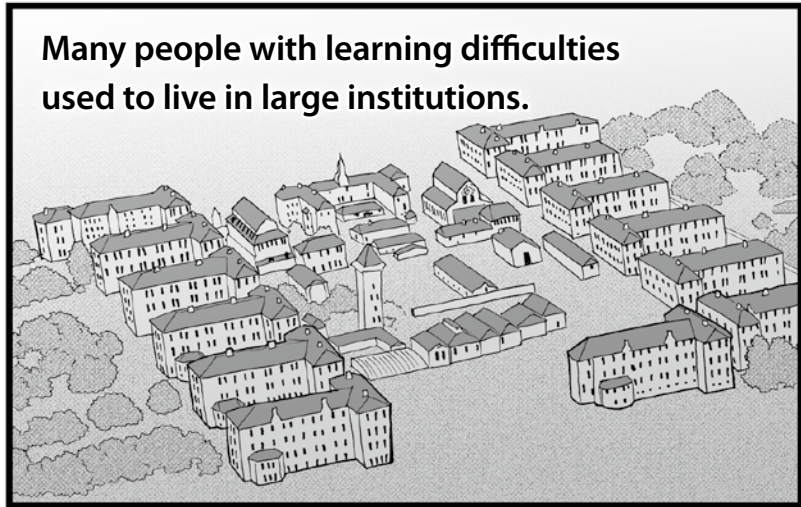
9. Loss and Grief

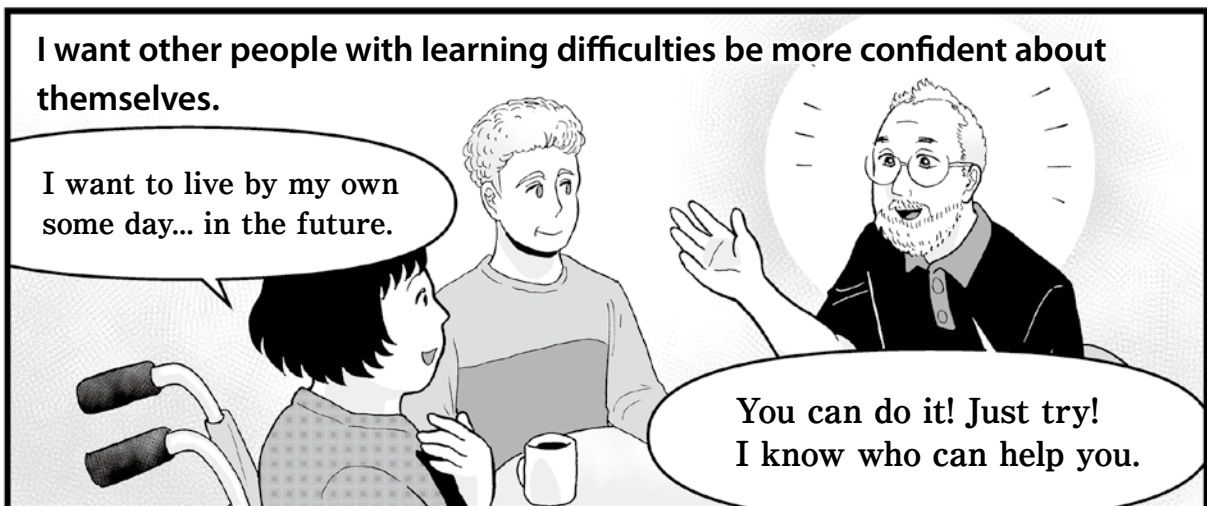
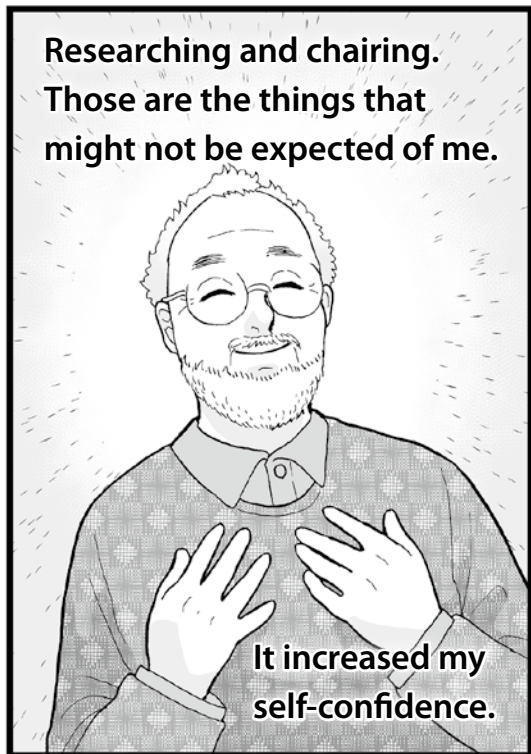
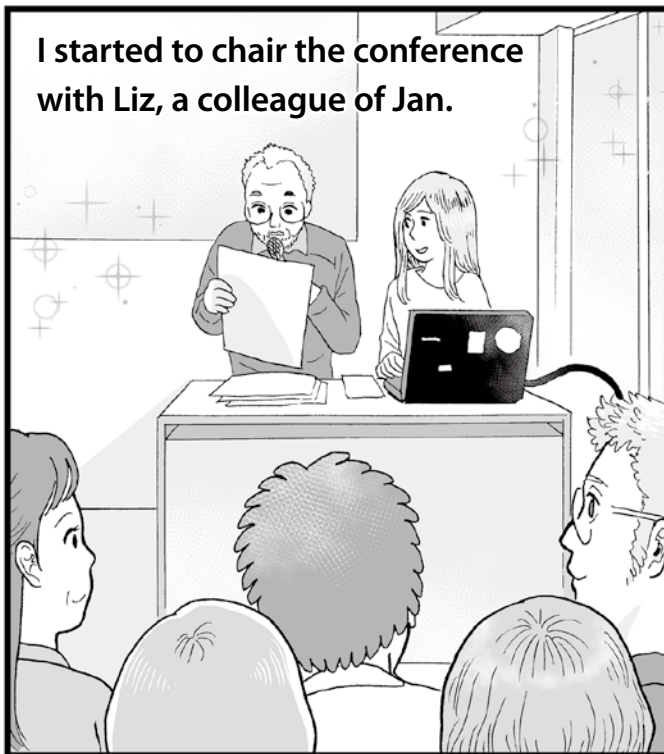


10. Working with Academics



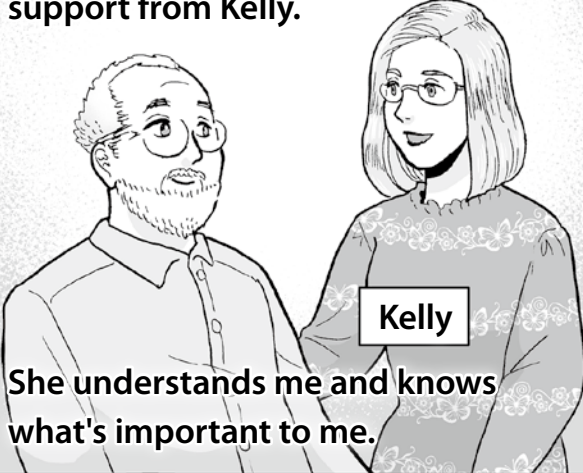
11. Social History of Learning Disability (SHLD) Group, The Open University





12. My life today

Now I live in my house alone with support from Kelly.



Kelly

She understands me and knows what's important to me.

Now I have my network through the self-advocacy groups, and the partnership with Liz and Jan.



How about we talk about this at the next conference?



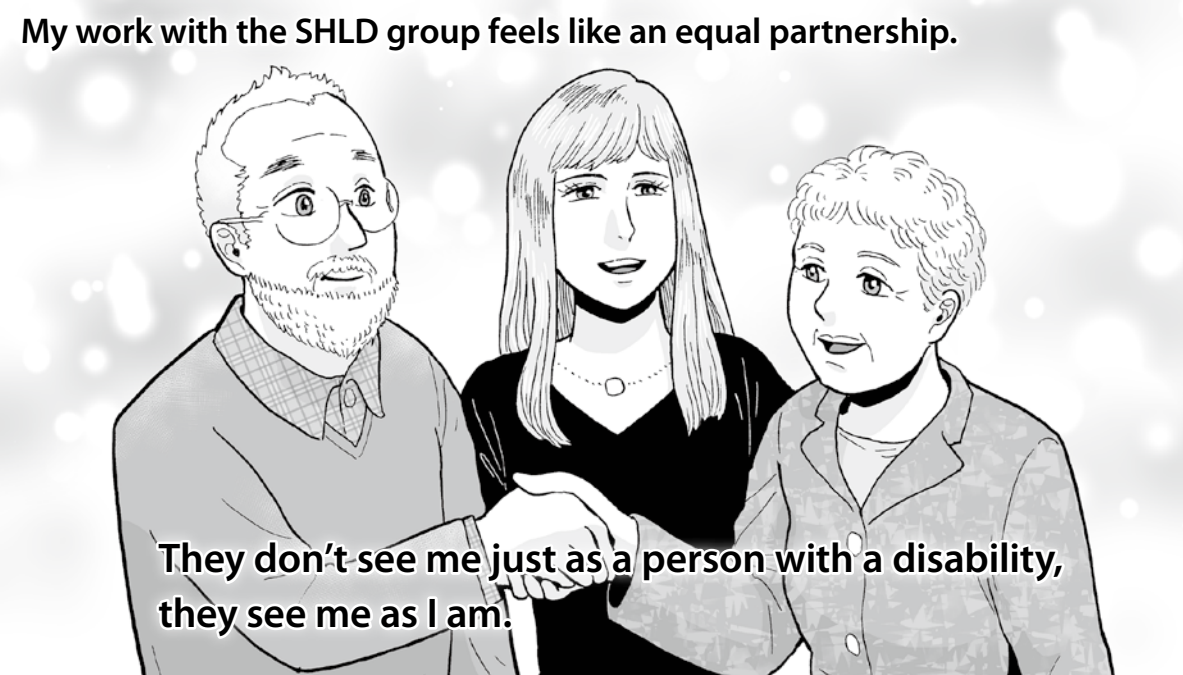
That's a good idea!

Ian, we're going to Japan in 2019 to meet with people with learning difficulties and their families. Would you like to join us?



Yes, I'd love to!

My work with the SHLD group feels like an equal partnership.



They don't see me just as a person with a disability, they see me as I am.

Reflections on the benefits and challenges of doing life story manga with people with intellectual disabilities



Essay manga is a genre which has become popular in Japan since around 2000s, which has a theme of “telling others about our own daily living and life”. Nowadays, there are quite a few works associated with raising social problems, stemming from personal experience such as one’s own illness or family care. Mr. Nakanishi’s and Mr. Davies’s manga can be regarded as the same genre.

The important point in the production was the characterization of the main character. Manga is an entertainment, and an element of artistic license is sometimes needed. Therefore, for better or worse, in manga, the person cannot be who he/she really is. The personalities of the manga drawer and interpretation of the reader always interact. In that sense, the important point of this production was how the main character’s characterization may or may not be affected depending on whether he or she has disabilities. We can only know how it worked from readers’ reviews. How did you like it? I would be great if the manga made you want to meet Mr. Nakanishi and Mr. Davies in person. The next main character may be you.

Kazuma Yoshimura (Kyoto Seika University)



It was the first time for me to experience creating a work with the aim of conveying what people with intellectual disabilities want to express. My role was to find a way of expressing their feelings and ideas so that many people with intellectual disabilities can understand it easily. This work also involved understanding what happened to Mr. Nakanishi & Mr. Davies, and how each of them accepted the situation.

Although I have been interacting with people with intellectual disabilities for a long time, I never had a chance to know their feelings and ideas over long time span. I sympathized with them, was impressed and naturally moved. I think there have been few opportunities where people with intellectual disabilities get to know what experiences their counterparts had and what they felt during their life. Some people get tips on how to lead their life from autobiographies or essays. I would like readers, regardless of with or without disabilities, to feel the same way through reading these comic books. From the reviews of readers, I would like to see if I actually could be of any help.

Kazuko Fujisawa (Niigata University of Rehabilitation)



Supporting people with intellectual disabilities to record and share their life stories is well established in UK research. Life stories can help researchers understand the wider forces that shape people’s lives. They are also a powerful way for disabled people to inform the research agenda. Life stories are often the basis for self-advocacy and empowerment too. That is why this project is so exciting. Seeing the stories of Masashige Nakanishi and Ian Davies in manga form presents a new perspective on their experiences and connects people’s lives across the globe. The visual nature of manga also helps to deepen understanding across cultures, which makes it an interesting method for international collaboration.

Liz Tilley (Open University)



One of the discussions during the production process was how to convey the disability of Mr. Nakanishi and Mr. Davies. We found it very difficult to explain the disability because intellectual disabilities are not visually recognizable. In addition, each person has different difficulties in their daily life due to their intellectual disability.

Through the discussion, we realized that what we wanted to convey in this manga was not the disability of two people, but the way they live in their own way.

I would be very happy if a lot of readers could think about Mr. Nakanishi and Mr. Davies’ life stories and reflect upon what you want to cherish in your life.

Hiromi Moriguchi (Tenri University)

Planning : A Study on Life Story Manga for People with Intellectual Disabilities

Production : Business Promotion Department, Kyoto Seika University
(Kyoto International Manga Museum)

Cooperation : Wataboshi-No-Kai, Social Welfare Corporation Tanpopo-No-Ye
The Open University

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