



DETAILED PROGRAM PIEM ROUND TABLE

ROUND TABLE (in person only)

JAN 15 (Thu)

4:00-5:30 pm

UNAVE UA

(in person)

Round Table:

“Unrecognized Grief and Non-Finite Loss in the IDD Community”

(Grief in the context of disability, in collaboration with PIEM, DEP–University of Aveiro)

This topic explores the forms of grief experienced in the context of intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD), which are often marked by ambiguous, unfinished, and socially invisible losses. The emotional and relational impact of this grief on families will be addressed, as well as the need for recognition, validation, and inclusion of these experiences. The discussion will emphasize the importance of recognizing the unique nature of this grief, which affects the lives of family members, especially parents of individuals with special needs, in an ongoing and repetitive manner. Finally, the role of psychosocial education in addressing unrecognized grief will be discussed as a means of building more inclusive, enlightened, and welcoming communities that promote a culture of care, dignity, and belonging.

Topics to be addressed:

- The loss of expectations and the theory of the Assumptive World
- Non-Finite Loss and Ambiguous Loss in IDD contexts
- Recurrent Grief and Chronic Sorrow
- How to Deal with the Loss of Expectations

This initiative results from a collaboration between the research project [“Grief Counselling: Specialised Training in the Portuguese Context”](#) and [PIEM – the Individual Multidisciplinary Studies Programme of the University of Aveiro](#), reinforcing a shared commitment to more inclusive education.