

The Politics of Disablement summer school

28, 29, 30 August 2023

University of Humanistic Studies

Organizers: Alice Schippers (University of Humanistic Studies), Sander Hilberink (Rotterdam University of Applied Sciences), Andries Hiskes (Leiden University)

Program:

Each day will have the structure of an introduction on the theme by the track host, followed by presentations of the participants, and finally a roundtable discussion that brings together the participants of each track for a discussion on the topic. Presentations should be around 20 minutes long, followed by 10 minutes for questions. Depending on the number of people that would like to present, each day will be between three to five hours, so as to accommodate energy levels and attention spans.

Next to a focus on a track every day, we will dedicate time to overarching discussions throughout the three days.

Note: depending on proposed presentations of participants, we will change tracks and days; below we provide a tentative schedule.

Track Descriptions:

Capacity and Representation

On the first day we will focus on matters concerning disability and representation. This can mean representation in a political sense, but also in a cultural and aesthetic sense. To represent effectively, what is required is the bodily capacity that translates into the particular abilities needed to represent oneself or others. The ability to speak, for example, is an ability that excludes and disables those with communicative capacities that are not recognized as viable and valid abilities within a given political order in which speech is the norm. As such, this track is also interested in the ways in which disability problematizes matters of representation, because representation can presuppose normative abilities.

Guiding questions can be:

- How and where is the (political) representation of people with disabilities problematized due to normative abilities being required for that representation to be effective?
- In what ways can capacities related to disability that are not recognized/validated by a social/political order disrupt that order?
- What does the representation of disability in social, cultural, and political contexts look like, and what do those representations do?

The Body and Sexuality

On the second day, we focus on the ways in which disability intersects with issues concerning sexuality, gender, and the body, exploring the social and cultural constructions of disability as they relate to sexuality, embodiment, and identity. Participants are encouraged to present their research that relates to this theme. We will close the day with a thorough discussion about the presentations and will formulate lessons learned and future perspectives.

Guiding question can be:

- How does a body that challenges normality impact the formation of a sexual identity?

Disability and Social Justice

On the third day we focus on how social (in)justice intersects with disability, an often overlooked issue in -scholarly and public- diversity debates. Within this track we welcome presentations and discussions of social (in)justice, on personal, cultural and systemic level, including specific types, such as epistemic (in)justice). We would like to cover issues on intersections of disability, ethnicity, gender, class etc. Moreover we are interested in frameworks and approaches to respond to social justice, such as transformative justice.

Guiding questions can be:

- Why is disability overlooked in many public and scholarly diversity debates?
- How can we address (historical) wrongs regarding disability and its intersections?
- In what ways claims and confronts disability being human?