

Theorising Culture and Disability: Interdisciplinary Dialogues

Review of Disability Studies Special Forum: CFP

Edited by Dan Goodley, Lucy Burke, Rebecca Lawthom, Rebecca Mallett and David Bolt, the forum will bring together activists, academics and practitioners in the multidisciplinary theorising of culture and disability, exploring the ways in which disciplines that concern themselves with the production, circulation and deconstruction of representations may have something to say to disciplines that seek to develop social policy and influence practice (in various contexts). Focusing on the role of cultural narratives in mediating and shaping the experience of disability, contributors will organise around matters such as social care and the politics of dependency. Each article will outline its perspective, apply this approach to an area of disabling society, and critically examine the possibilities and limits of its analytical procedure. The aim is to promote conversations that ask questions about the promise and consequence of transferring certain theoretical interrogations of 'disability' across existing divides.

Topics to be explored include:

- How do different disciplines and areas of cultural life allow possibilities for theorising and transforming disablism in contemporary society?
- How might different contexts be used as a kind of critical irritant—a way of thinking through the limits and possibilities of interdisciplinary dialogue?
- How might disability theories historically associated with one discipline be refocused and reconceived in light of another discipline?
- **How can the humanities and arts inform the social sciences, health and social care?**
- What are the risks of interdisciplinary expansion of disability theory?

The forum is linked to an event that will be held in the UK on 3 July 2008, organised by Manchester Metropolitan University's Social Change and Well Being Research Centre and the English Research Institute in association with the *Journal of Literary Disability* and the Cultural Disability Studies Research Network. However, abstracts are welcome from people who cannot attend the MMU event.

Abstracts for the RDS special forum should be sent to David Bolt before 1 May 2008. Please indicate whether or not you will be available for the MMU event. (Note that acceptance of an abstract does not guarantee publication of an article.)

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