

"Poised Against Ableism: Contemporary Unmakings and Remakings of Disability Through Critical Disability Approaches"
Hannah Mueller and Kimberly Lopez, University of Waterloo
International Disability Rights Affirmation Conference 2022
October 28

[2022/10/28 08:28] Elektra Panthar: Hello everyone.

Today's presentation is being transcribed so those without audio or who require text only can participate in real time.

Some speakers may be using a text teleprompter tool for some or all of their presentation. Transcriptionists will fill in any gaps and support the Question & Answer section at the end. A little explanation about this service.

Voice-to-text transcriptionists provide a translation of the key ideas discussed, NOT a word for word transcription.

Voice-to-text services provide an in-the-moment snapshot of ideas and concepts, so that those who are unable to hear or to understand the audio program are able to participate in real-time.

You will see the transcription in local chat.

Transcription is provided by Virtual Ability, Inc.

The transcriptionists are:

Elektra Panthar

LoriVonne Lustre

The speakers will be identified by initials as they speak.

The following initials in the transcription record will identify the speakers:

HM: Hannah Mueller (LaLeisureLady)

KL: Kimberly Lopez (KayJayBelle)

[2022/10/28 08:30] Itico Spectre: Thank you all for joining us at Virtual Ability's 11th Annual International Disability Rights Affirmation Conference.

Before we get to our next presentation, a little about myself.

For almost 30 years people online have known me as Itico.

I make the joke that you can tell I'm old because I have the luxury of having a short online name.

On the other side of the screen my name is Will Hascall and I'm a writer, political scientist and advocate for the elderly and disabled.

I have two Bachelor's degrees, one in Instructional Technology, the other in Political Science as well as a Masters in Communication from the University of Wisconsin-Stevens Point.

I am visually impaired since birth so use on-screen magnification and text-to-speech technologies.

I have been a builder, sriptor and sim manager as well as a journalist in Second Life.

I used to drive in Second Life until I ran someone over one morning on the way to work.

We became friends for many years after that.

Thankfully, you are not here to hear me speak.

This year, Virtual Ability is bringing you two presenters from the University of Waterloo in Ontario, Canada.

Dr. Kimberly Lopez is an Assistant Professor in the Department of Recreation and Leisure Studies.

She critically examines social structures and processes that reinforce difference and marginalization through qualitative research.

Hannah Mueller is a fourth-year Ph.D. candidate who says that her research is often situated at the nexus of leisure and disability.

She has worked with people who have spinal cord and traumatic brain injuries among others.

Today these two will share a presentation entitled "Poised Against Ableism: Contemporary Unmakings and Remakings of Disability Through Critical Disability Approaches".

Their presentation aims to discuss theories and methodologies that expose systemic ableism and work to be anti-ableist.

When we understand how these systems work, we have a better chance of fighting them from the inside.

As always, please be respectful of our presenters and hold questions and comments until the end of the presentation.

Please mute your microphone if you are on voice and refrain from using public chat during the presentation.

With that said, welcome Kim and Hannah.

[2022/10/28 08:35] Elektra Panthar: <transcription begins>

HM: Thank you so much, thanks everyone for welcoming us and helping us set up this presentation

Before we get started we acknowledge the land we organized this presentation on, and how it was taken from its original owners

[2022/10/28 08:38] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: Thank you Hannah. And hello to everyone here

I am from Toronto Canada, and acknowledge the indigenous peoples who came before us and remain as land stewards

Pictured on the screen is the Rouge River which runs through Toronto

Caring for the land and each other is important. We acknowledge this as settlers in the land

[2022/10/28 08:41] Elektra Panthar: HM: we'd like to start by laying our intentions for this presentation

Our presentation aims to discuss theories and methodologies that expose systemic ableism and work to be anti-ableist.

We also draw on viral socio-cultural moments to invite discussion on liberation movements that

intentionally speak with and through intersectional disability.

Lastly, we touch on some tensions and cautions for moving carefully towards futures that enact

(disability) justice.

We hope that this presentation can be a discussion as well, we'll try our best to keep up with the questions and comments

[2022/10/28 08:42] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: Seeking Liberation

We reflect on the existing template of living and consider the following in relation to folx who are disabled, “people are free to be, regardless of their ability to fit into capitalist institutions” (Piepzna-Samarasinha, 2022).

When do we feel most “free”?

Image: Two hands making a heart

Being means free to move about in the world

We needed to critique systems that do not provide this fairly for all

There are so many ways that capitalism does not acknowledge the various ways of being.

Being should feel free

We are gathered here today to explore this

We are leisure scholars and interested in how we move through the world.

Think: What does it mean to be free.

Feel free to add your questions in chat, or on a notecard. Or keep to yourself :-)

Take about a minute and a half to consider this. Soft music will play. We will note in chat when to come back

Adjust your sound if you want quiet

[2022/10/28 08:45] Gentle Heron: I feel freer out in nature than I am when I am around people

[2022/10/28 08:47] Dancers Yao: Freedom to have and share our ideas

[2022/10/28 08:47] Eyeclectic Resident: Eye feel FREE in the presence of open hEARts.

[2022/10/28 08:47] Shaerken Changeheart (ChangeheartShaerken Resident): Response to Query: It means I feel some modicum of safety and therefore not invisible. What it means and when it happens are two different things and not necessarily available on-call.

[2022/10/28 08:48] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: Thank you. I will be reading the responses in chat

Gentle

Dancers

Eye

Shae

Someone mentioned when they have security.

Thank you for sharing

I feel free when I feel safe

[2022/10/28 08:49] Xi ㄝonundrum-Firelyte (Existential Conundrum): I feel more free in my home than out in public.

[2022/10/28 08:49] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: Embodiments and Intra-actions of the Social

Image: A man's face looks through a screen with a monster's head emerges on the other side. Image credit: Alexander Pavlov

Let's think of the various ways embodiment and intra-actions help us in feeling most free
Object / actor

An example of intra-actions for me was learning how to use SL

Even 'showing up' feels different here

There are bodies of difference

For example, compare this to a physical conference presentation.

Look at the image on the screen

Virtual mediums can create new avenues for vulnerability

Theory and Methodology

To frame our knowing of disability

Open access to knowledge and gatekeeping -- we put methodology under erasure
Critical disability theories promote discourse
The literature considers this to be a starting point

Theoretical Departures

[reference to chapter]

Crip Theory

Disability Justice

(Dis)ability as Methodology

Crip of Color Critique

Other examples?

Image: A wooden human with a thought bubble from head

Methodology and Disability Justice

Disability as relation to the body may be considered less desirable,

Person First language is changing

Consider how the person would like to be identified

(Dis)ability as Methodology

disabled / able bodied binary

Another approach is the social community care / medical approach

As in the environment where the flower grows, rather than 'fixing' the person

Consider the (dis)

Hannah will share the reference

[2022/10/28 08:59] LaLeisureLady Resident: Lopez, K. J. (2022). Poised Against Ableism: Critical Disability Theory (CDT), Justice, and Verbing to Disablement. In C. W. Johnson and D. Parry (Eds). *Fostering Social Justice Research through Qualitative Inquiry: A Methodological Guide* (2nd Edition, pp. 30-34). Routledge. DOI: 10.4324/9781003216575-6 (Krogh & Johnson, 2006, p. 163)

McRuer, 2006

Kim, J. B. (2017). Toward a crip-of-color critique: Thinking with Minich's "enabling whom?". *Lateral*, 6(1), 1–6.

Schalk, S. (2017). Critical disability studies as methodology. *Lateral*, 6(1), 1–4.

[2022/10/28 09:00] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: Ascribing a person as a medical condition creates barriers

Critical disability studies have let to many different ways of seeing / being disability

Such as Crip Theory and Crip of Color Critique

Disability Justice is another way to look at this

See the link Hannah is posting

Crip of Color critique considers color, disability, sexuality.

Engaging in this theoretical departure provides alternative definitions and frameworks

Are there other enquiries of disability theories that you know of or work within?

Please share with us -- we would like to know more

[2022/10/28 09:04] Gentle Heron: I like to think of us as abled and being dissed

Rather than as disabled

The diss comes from outside us

[2022/10/28 09:05] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: Thank you Gentle

It is a construct that is applied to us rather than us deciding for ourselves

[2022/10/28 09:06] Gentle Heron: That is why our community has an art gallery and a library showing only works by those of us who are supposedly DISabled, when we are obviously abled

[2022/10/28 09:06] Itico (Itico Spectre): Growing up I was always told what I can't do, not what I can do.

[2022/10/28 09:06] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: thank you Itico. Yes, that focuses on the impairment rather than the strengths

[2022/10/28 09:06] iSkye Silvercloud (iSkye Silverweb): sometimes the issues come from within a community - kind of "crab theory" - when someone is able to find a way to reach their goals and they try to share that with others who 'drag them down' instead of being lifted up

Facing change, even when positive, is sometimes resisted

[2022/10/28 09:07] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: Yes iSkye Right

[2022/10/28 09:07] LaLeisureLady Resident: these are all great examples

[2022/10/28 09:08] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: Sometimes it is a comparative thing -- who gets the supports and accommodations and who does not Thank you. We will continue to ask for your input

Methodology and Disability Justice - cross out / erase Methodology

-Through Narrative

Autoethnography

Un-making, Re-making, and even un-doing disability

-Through the Arts

Body, space mapping

Self-portraits

Beyond "representation"

Beyond representation -- to get beyond tokenism. check boxes are not helpful

-Through Digital

Digital ethnographies

Discourse analyses

-Pedagogy

Upstream, anti-ableist spaces

Multimodal experiences and material engagements

Interpretive assignments with flexible feedback mechanisms

Image: Purple, white, and red oil paint blobs on a white paper

Like the previous speaker talked about -- teaching and working with children early

Please share too, other techniques you find useful for disability justice

[2022/10/28 09:12] Gentle Heron: These conferences are great ways to communicate across audiences!

[2022/10/28 09:12] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: Thanks Gentle

Implications

For knowing disability differently

The language is changing every day and we need to be aware of this

But we also need to be cautious as we space make through disability justice

[2022/10/28 09:14] Elektra Panthar: HM: We want to talk about tensions and a balancing act between 'real world' and digital worlds

When we feel free we open to vulnerability in digital spaces

We want to highlight the anonymity in online spaces

It can be beneficial for whoever wants to show a different aspects of themselves, but it also open the way for trolls, griefers, catfishing

I think there are cautions while thinking about spaces that can be liminal

They are great for 'un-marking or 'remaking' disability but most are also not moderated and can become dangerous

These digital worlds can both be a place of ablement and dis-ablement

I want to talk about a study about Pokémon Go and how the poke stops were in places where many didn't have access to

We can also think about healthcare - universal healthcare not always means healthcare for all

For example transportation, overcoming financial barriers that make healthcare difficult to be accessed

We recognize it's the freedom to these spaces but also to be able to access these spaces
[2022/10/28 09:18] Gentle Heron: Hannah, I think we have "veiled anonymity here" since we may not appear as we do in RL, but our personalities seem to come through pretty clearly. Everyone I know from here whom I meet in RL, I feel I already know their personalities from their SL avatars.

[2022/10/28 09:19] Elektra Panthar: HM: 11. Tensions and Cautions:
(Re-/Un-)Making Disability

- Anonymity
- Power to harm through deidentified, dis-embodiment
- Catfishing through marginalized constructions
- Liminality
- Space between and betwixt
- Simultaneity of dis/enablement
- i.e., technology, leisure, "universal" health care

[2022/10/28 09:19] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: Care-full, liberatory futures
Revisiting "freedom"

Inspirations

Possibilities

Imaginations

Image: A dark-skinned woman laying down with eyes closed

Photo credit: Kume Pather

We would like to be collectively inspired

Imagine spaces in real life where we can feel free always

Thank you so much

Feel free to repost your questions

And we are ready for any other questions you may have

Thank you. Questions welcomed

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Image: Microphone in stand

[2022/10/28 09:21] Itico (Itico Spectre): Thank you two very much.

[2022/10/28 09:21] DeeDeeBeaker Resident: Thank you, great presentation

[2022/10/28 09:21] Gentle Heron: Thank you Kimberly and Hannah. You've introduced so many important concepts.

QUESTION: What do you consider a "failed attempt at inclusion"? (Kimberly mentioned this early on) Isn't the attempt a positive step, even if it fails?

[2022/10/28 09:22] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: Yes, sometimes we can be disheartened by failures.

We want to recognize the frustrations of failed attempts at inclusion

But these are steps in the right direction

It can be frustrating.

[2022/10/28 09:23] Gentle Heron: How should we deal with the shortfalls?

[2022/10/28 09:24] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: Good question Gentle

We can do lots of things, like surveys, and that's nice

But we need action. There are many factors that prevent action

[2022/10/28 09:25] Elektra Panthar: HM: I spent a lot of my time educating people about accessibility, not only about mobility but sensory as well

It's many things we need to work on

We need to chip away at each piece and hopefully progress can be made

Full inclusion is very hard but we can keep trying

[2022/10/28 09:23] Pecos Kidd: Anonymity is interesting in SL and similar spaces: Our avatars are anonymous in that they don't reveal our real world identity, yet they are persistent and so can establish reputation.

[2022/10/28 09:26] Elektra Panthar: HM: Virtual spaces are fascinating to me regarding identities

This also raises issues of ethics and values and how we present ourselves in virtual spaces

I'd love to talk more about this

[2022/10/28 09:27] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: absolutely!

[2022/10/28 09:25] Itico (Itico Spectre): I was walking with city planners the other day doing a walk audit and I made the point that some of the changes that help the disabled help non-disabled people at least with sidewalks.

[2022/10/28 09:27] Pecos Kidd: That is called "Universal Design"

[2022/10/28 09:27] Gentle Heron: Universal Design! It is for everyone.

[2022/10/28 09:28] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: justice for everybody creates a better society

Places like SL and online gaming does have the potential for oppression as well as freedom

[2022/10/28 09:28] Itico (Itico Spectre): Everyone drives bad in SL.

[2022/10/28 09:29] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: Yes Itico. Thank you for your kindness everyone, as we learned.

[2022/10/28 09:29] Gentle Heron: [09:26] iSkye Silvercloud (iskye.silverweb): A university in Ohio noticed how the students didn't really use the sidewalks they'd laid out - but they saw the paths that many students' feet had created criss crossing grassy areas - they created sidewalks over those paths and that was really well received by the students

[2022/10/28 09:29] iSkye Silvercloud (iSkye Silverweb): less of the "keep off the grass!" and more of the "what works for all" and offering options

[2022/10/28 09:30] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: yes iSkye! Let's take the path that better suits our needs.

[2022/10/28 09:30] Slatan Dryke: especially if you have short legs hehe

[2022/10/28 09:30] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): KL: thank you all.

[2022/10/28 09:30] Elektra Panthar: HM: it also speaks of the redundancy in design in college, many ways of doing the same thing

Thank you everyone

[2022/10/28 09:29] Lyr Lobo: Great session!

[2022/10/28 09:30] Slatan Dryke: excellent ! thanks for sharing !

[2022/10/28 09:30] AgileBill Firehawk: applauds! TY!!

[2022/10/28 09:30] Gentle Heron: To the audience- You can get a resource list from our speakers in the box on stage. Just click it to get a notecard.

[2022/10/28 09:31] LV (LoriVonne Lustre): <<transcription ends>>