

The Australian Sociological Association

CRITICAL DISABILITY STUDIES THEMATIC GROUP

Welcome back everyone! This is the third issue for the year and it's a big one. First to our new members. We would like to extend a warm welcome to Anthony Hogan, ANU and Fiona Kumari Campbell, Griffiths University. Thanks for joining us. We look forward to your contribution to the group and hope to see you both at the forthcoming December Conference.

On that note, we have received additional conference information from the conference organisers. Roberta Simpson, Macquarie University, has undertaken an accessibility audit of the conference site, and has advised that the venue appears to meet all of the access standards. Further information such as accessible accommodation, accessibility campus maps and parking are contained within this newsletter. We hope that you can all attend, especially as Russell Shuttleworth, will be launching his forthcoming edited book – a first for TASA! As part of the book launch in this issue we have included Russell's research profile.

Another first for TASA is the recently endorsed Disability Access, Inclusion and Participation Policy. As a result of the new policy, a number of things will change within the organisation, including the TASA website in line with the *Web Content Accessibility Guidelines* in the coming months. Full details of the Executive's decisions are provided on page two.

TASA Executive's adoption of the Disability Access, Inclusion and Participation Policy is extremely timely as the field is rapidly expanding which is evident by the increasing number of programs being offered across Australian universities. Ongoing growth of the disability studies program at Griffith

University has resulted in the recent advertising for additional staff in the area. Full details of the job, including the selection criteria and closing date, are available on pages 7 & 8.

This issue is also packed with information from across the globe. Tsitsi Chataika, Postdoctoral Research Fellow, Stellenbosch University, as Editor of the Global South to North Disability Research E-Newsletter, has submitted an overview of this emerging network. Shaun Grech, Manchester Metropolitan University, summarises the one day conference on Disability and the Majority World. And Felicity Grey has also provided a very insightful synopsis of the SDS conference held in New York in June. Thanks to you all for your contributions, time and energy. These reports are extremely important, as many disability scholars based in Australia are unable to travel to these events. Thus, your contribution is a vital resource in ensuring Australian critical disability scholars are kept up to date and relevant.

As you can see from both the size of this newsletter and the growing membership, the TASA Critical Disability Studies Thematic Group is rapidly expanding. Interest in CDS and our emerging research continues to increase. This year's conference promises to be exciting, with a number of new scholars submitting papers to the program.

Thanks for all of your support throughout 2010. We look forward to seeing you all at this year's conference at Macquarie University and the CDS thematic group annual general meeting.

Karen Soldatic and Helen Meekosha

DISABILITY ACCESSIBILITY, INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION

New TASA Guidelines

On 6 September, we were advised by Debra King, Vice-President that the TASA Executive had endorsed the Disability Access, Inclusion and Participation Guidelines. The full guidelines, contained as an appendix as this newsletter, will result in the following changes:

- Changes to MOUs for the conference, Public Lectures and TGs (who may run public events)
- Training for the Executive Officer
- Incorporation into the website (this has been done as part of the redevelopment)
- A shift in the way in which TASA provides electronic communication to ensure legibility and accessibility of documents / text.
- Changes to the membership database
- Incorporation into Executive procedures manual
- Recognize the Critical Disability Studies TG role as the consultative group

To ensure that these changes are realised, it is critical that all CDS members make contact with the TASA administration staff when issues arise (admin@tasa.org.au). This will provide the TASA Executive and Administration with ongoing monitoring and feedback ensuring that issues are appropriately addressed in a timely manner.

We welcome all of these changes and hope that this will result in greater participation for disabled researchers from across Australia. Thank you for all of your feedback throughout the guideline's development and your ongoing support.

TASA ANNUAL CONFERENCE Macquarie University 06 – 09 December 2010

Planning for the Australian Sociological Association's Annual Conference 2010 is well underway. As Convenors of CDS we have been working alongside the Conference Organising Committee to ensure that the venues are accessible and that disability access and inclusion is considered as part of the overall conference design and program.

We have been reassured that this year's conference has taken disability access, inclusion and participation into account from its initial design and in turn, there should be few issues. If you have any queries regarding accommodation, accessibility, travel to/from the venue etc, please contact Roberta Simpson on: Roberta.simpson@mq.edu.au.

Additionally, a number of Australian scholars working within the area of critical disability studies have submitted workshops or referred papers, with many more aiming to present work emerging from their research as part of the conference program. Those of you who have submitted abstracts, papers or workshops should have received notification by now. If not, please contact Salindra Rasmay, The TASA Event Coordinator on: tasa@con-sol.com.

TASA conferences provide a rich environment for sociologists, cultural theorists and a range of inter-disciplinary scholars to meet and form partnerships, with the hope of working together across disciplinary boundaries. Adding new theoretical and empirical insights from the CDS arena, is a vital mix to informing the future development of sociological thought and inquiry. Registration information is available at the following website: <http://www.soc.mq.edu.au/tasa-conference/registration/>

Accommodation: The two hotels which can be booked with registration (Travelodge and Courtyard by Marriott) both have a number of accessible rooms (suitable for wheelchairs). The Travelodge Hotel (map ref L25) is closest to the uni so delegates staying there may not require additional transport. Anyone requiring one of these, should make this clear on the registration form. The contact details of these hotels (and web links) are provided on the conference web page, if you (or others) wish to ask questions about their facilities specific to individual needs: <http://www.soc.mq.edu.au/tasa-conference/accomodation/>

Parking: The following link will provide a map of Macquarie University, showing disability parking places and pathways. The best parking for conference participants are those near W5A (ref Q16). Parking in specific disability places requires the official RTA tags, and is free and not time limited. <http://www.mq.edu.au/socialinclusion/Disabilities/workingatMQ.html>

Travel to/from Macquarie: Information about getting to Macquarie University is provided on the University website at the following link: <http://www.mq.edu.au/uniinaday/gettingtomq.html>

RESEARCH PROFILES

Dr Russell Shuttleworth, University of Sydney

Dr Russell Shuttleworth is Lecturer in the Graduate Program in Sexual Health, Faculty of Health Sciences at the University of Sydney. He has been the Course Director of the Graduate Program in Developmental Disability since January of 2009. Russell has postgraduate degrees in cultural anthropology, medical anthropology and social work. He employs critical social theory to illuminate the dynamics of disabled people's social marginalization and believes that it is mandatory to serve human rights and social justice principles and to ground theory in the lived experience of disabled people. A recent journal article co-authored with Helen

Meekosha explores the relevance of critical social theory to Critical Disability Studies (Meekosha and Shuttleworth 2009).

Russell is passionate about qualitative research and teaches several different qualitative methods classes. Other classes he teaches include Sexuality in Illness and Disability, Sexuality and People with Developmental Disabilities, and Sexuality and Ageing. Russell is supervising a number of postgraduate and honours students who are working on a range of disability issues including disabled people's access barriers to sex worker services, the reluctance of health professionals to discuss sexual issues with people with neuro-muscular disorders and the lived experience of post-surgery for people with epilepsy.

Russell's history of involvement within the disability community is extensive. He was a social worker working with disabled and elderly people for several years in the late 1980s. He was also a personal assistant for disabled men for over fifteen years and has been involved in the movement for disability rights and social participation of disabled people since the mid-1980s. Russell's doctoral dissertation research on the topic of sexuality and disability impelled him to also become an advocate for disabled people's sexual rights. He has facilitated several groups for disabled people regarding their sexual issues at Independent Living Centers and also provided advice on sexual matters for people with cerebral palsy via SexualHealth.Net. The promotion of equity and the equalization of opportunities for disabled people have been central to both his community work and research. As a research consultant for the World Institute on Disability for several years (New Focus Partnerships), he participated in grant writing activities that promoted equal opportunity. Russell was also part of a research team that investigated the perspectives of various stakeholders in the Workforce Improvement Act for disabled people.

While caring for his frail father from 2000-2005, Russell taught part-time at the UC, Berkeley and SFSU. At UC Berkeley as part of the Ed Robert's Fellowship Program, he co-taught the groundbreaking class Anthropology and Disability with friend and colleague Devva Kasnitz, as well as Social Work and Disability. At SFSU's Graduate Program in Sexuality Studies, he taught another seminal course, Sexuality and Disability from a critical perspective, interrogating the intersection of disability, gender and sexuality, as well as looking at the sexual health and human rights implications of this intersection.

Russell's doctoral dissertation was a problem-focused ethnography of men with cerebral palsy living in the East San Francisco Bay (ESFB) disability community. He explored the experiences of 14 men with cerebral palsy in their efforts to form sexually intimate relations with others and how sociocultural meanings and processes engage with and shape these experiences. He also interviewed key informants who knew these men such as partners, family members and personal assistants; and he kept an ethnographic journal during his work as personal assistant for one of the men, while socializing with other participants and during his everyday involvement in the disability community. Russell contextually situated these men's accounts within the local ESFB disability community, wider sociocultural, historical, political, and gender contexts in the U.S. The culturally constructed undesirability of these men is revealed through a critique of models of disability, medical and rehabilitative approaches to cerebral palsy, the normative gaze,

hegemonic masculine expectations and cultural ideals of desirability. In the face of this adverse context, Russell shows how these men existentially resist being perceived as asexual and through various pragmatic but often creative, negotiation strategies, a majority have found some success in love.

Russell's experience in qualitative research spans over two decades including life history research with people with chronic illness and ethnographic and grounded theory research in nursing homes and geropsychiatric facilities. However, Russell's primary research area is disability having conducted research with disabled rural political leaders on their development of leadership skills; older disabled adults regarding barriers to cell phone usage; stake holders for the Workforce Improvement Act; and speech impaired persons on the barriers they face communicating in health care settings. Russell has also conducted extended life histories or sexual life histories with several leaders in the disability community: Harlan Hahn, an activist and political scientist; Frank Moore, a celebrated performance artist; and Dr. Elias Katz, founder and former director of the National Institute for Art and Disability.

One of Russell's most recent projects was a detailed evaluation of research in sexuality and disability from 1997-2007 (International Program Development Fund Award). He discovered that many issues were still marginalized, especially those issues that are ethically complex such as disabled people's use of facilitated sex. In fact, research on the impact of different policy contexts on disabled people's sexual lives was minimal. In conjunction with Teela Sanders at Leeds University, Russell organized several panels at international conferences calling for an inclusive sexuality and disability research agenda. An edited book comprised mostly of papers presented at these panels will be published by The Disability Press in November of this year, Sex and Disability: Politics, Identity and Access. Since many sexuality and disability issues continue to be marginalized, Russell remains committed to conducting research in this area. In terms of other disability research, Russell is currently part of a team of researchers at the University of Sydney (other members being Nikki Wedgwood and Gwynnyth Llewellyn) who have submitted an ARC Discovery Grant Proposal entitled "Disability and Ability: How Young People Deal with the Challenges of Impairment in Transitions towards Adulthood."

A research project that Russell has been working on for several years involves discerning staff attitudes toward and responses to nursing home residents' sexual expression. A report of one phase of this research, telephone interviews with senior nursing staff at 198 Residential Aged Care Facilities (RACFs) in NSW, Victoria and Queensland, has appeared as a journal article (Shuttleworth et al 2010). In conjunction with the Whiddon Group, which manages 16 RACFs in NSW, other phases of this research either completed or in process include a survey of senior nursing staff, focus groups with junior nursing staff, and a survey of junior nursing staff, all of these phases conducted at Whiddon's facilities. Hopefully, this research will inform the development of national policy guidelines.

TASA BOOK LAUNCH

Sex and Disability: Politics, Identity and Access

Leeds: The Disability Press, 2010

Edited by Russell Shuttleworth and Teela Sanders

Since the mid-1990s, sexuality and disability research has experienced only minimal expansion in terms of the kinds of issues investigated and the conceptual frameworks employed. The predominant approaches in this area of research: 1) still perceive disabled people's sexuality as a problem to be solved at the level of the individual; 2) are explicitly or implicitly concerned with treatment objectives; 3) focus on how individuals stack up on a scale of sexual functioning; and 4) view the issue of disabled sex in terms of physiological, psychological, social and relational norms derived from research with non-disabled people. While this research can be useful in certain contexts, much less investigated are the socio-political structures and cultural meanings that restrict disabled people's sexual expression and sexual opportunities; disabled people's modes of resistance and creative sexual agency in their search for sexual wellbeing; sex, disability and intersecting identities; the impact of different policy contexts on sexuality and disability issues; and other topics less concerned with normative functioning. The purpose of this edited volume is to broaden the sexuality and disability research agenda to include issues and perspectives that for various reasons are still being given short shrift. Marginalised issues and new perspectives that are addressed in this landmark volume include:

- the barriers that disabled people confront in accessing sex workers services
- facilitated sex and disability
- impediments to sexual expression for people with learning disability or learning difficulties
- sexuality and disability in non-Western societies
- barriers to the use of gay sociosexual spaces for gay disabled men
- the intersection of (trans)gender and disability
- (a)sexual representation of disabled people in the media
- gendered constructions of disabled people's sexuality
- sexual rights and disability
- the social and symbolic construction of disabled people in ways that restrict their sexual expression and wellbeing
- an emerging genre of disability performance in which disabled people are resisting and subverting hegemonic bodily and sexual norms

- the development of innovative conceptual frameworks in sexuality and disability research.

Contributing Authors:

Craig Blyth, University of Manchester; Ruth Garbutt, University of Leeds; Carol Hamilton, Waikato University, New Zealand; Andrea Hollomotz, Manchester Metropolitan University; Saul Isbister private sex worker and sex worker rights activist, Sydney, Australia; Godfrey Kangaude, Ipas and the Reproductive Health Unit of the Ministry of Health in Malawi; Sarah Phillips, Indiana University, Bloomington; Bethany Stevens, Georgia State University; and Rachel Wotton, independent migrant sex worker and sex worker rights activist, Sydney, Australia.

VACANCIES

Senior Lecturer /*Lecturer, Disability Studies - Griffith University Brisbane Australia (tenured)

The disability studies teaching program: a Graduate Certificate in Disability Studies & Master of Human Services (Disability Studies) is one of the largest in Australasia and applies and promotes a critical perspective of disability in research and teaching to maximise Australia's capacity to ensure a more equitable, participatory and accessible society for people with disabilities. The school also offers opportunities to pursue a research higher degree in disability studies.

Reference No: 491881

Element: School of Human Services and Social Work, Griffith University, Brisbane Australia

Work type: Continuing

Overview:

Griffith University is one of Australia's largest universities and is known for its emphasis on innovation and interdisciplinary research. Griffith Health, with ten schools, significant health-related research programs, almost 5,000 full-time equivalent students and around 400 staff, is one of the largest academic health groups in the Australian university sector.

The Griffith University School of Human Services and Social Work offers a range of educational programs at postgraduate levels in disability studies at the Logan campus and in distance mode. The disability studies teaching program: a Graduate Certificate in Disability Studies & Master of Human Services (Disability Studies) is one of the largest in Australasia and applies and promotes a critical perspective of disability in research and teaching to maximise Australia's capacity to ensure a more equitable, participatory and accessible society for people with disabilities. The school also offers opportunities to pursue a research higher degree in disability studies.

This is a Continuing, Full time position based at the Logan campus.

The role:

The successful candidate will be required to undertake teaching, research and community service to contribute to the work of the School. The position has a

teaching & research focus, with major responsibilities of the appointee being to oversee a range of courses in the Graduate Certificate in Disability Studies & Master of Human Services (Disability Studies) programs.

The person:

The successful applicant will have completed (or near completion, Level B) a PhD in an area relevant to disability studies, and an established record relevant to postgraduate teaching. The appointee will be expected to pursue research and scholarship in disability studies, and to teach courses in disability studies offered in the School.

People with disabilities are encouraged to apply.

Salary range:

Senior Lecturer level C: \$89,901 - \$103,664 per annum. Salary package including 17% employer superannuation contribution: \$105,185 - \$121,287 per annum.

Lecturer level B: \$73,388 - \$87,151 per annum. Salary package including 17% employer superannuation contribution: \$85,865 - \$101,967 per annum.

Position Description/Selection Criteria available from:

<http://jobs.griffith.edu.au/jobSearch.asp>

Then type in 'disability studies'

Further information:

For position queries, contact Dr Fiona Kumari-Campbell, Senior Lecturer, School of Human Services and Social Work on +61 (0) 7 3382 1411.

EMERGING INTERNATIONAL NETWORKS

The Global South to North Disability Research Network E-Newsletter

There has been so much debate about the Global North dominating the disability agenda. Little is documented about activities taking place in the global south and this resulting in the global north dominating the disability agenda. We attempt to situate disability in a global context by bridging the power relations between the Global North and the Global South through encouraging stakeholders from the global south to share activities taking place in their spaces thereby avoiding scholarly colonialism. This monthly e-newsletter serves as a bridge meant to narrow the gap between the two spaces through sharing of information and building communities of trust.

Our aim is to provide informal, off the press and informative monthly details of global south and global north disability related activities, which might be of interest to audiences that include disability activists, organisations of disabled people, students, researchers, policy makers, families, practitioners, local authorities, and development partners. The Global South to North Disability Research Network E-

newsletter is in association with the Centre for Rehabilitation Studies (Stellenbosch University, South Africa), Research Institute of Health and Social Change (Manchester Metropolitan University, UK), Breakthrough UK Ltd (UK), Centre for Global Health (Trinity College Dublin, Ireland), Disability Studies Association (UK), Disabled Peoples' International and African Network on Evidence-to-Action in Disability (AfriNEAD).

This sharing and networking links into the aims of the Disability Studies Association (<http://www.disabilitystudies.net/>), African Network on Evidence-to-Action on Disability (www.afrinead.org), Disabled People International (www.dpi.org) to ensure that the human rights enshrined in the United Nations Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities are realised through various activities from both the Global South and Global North. The newsletter is made possible through contributions from readers across the globe. We encourage contributors from all the continents to come forth so that we establish stronger links between the global south and global north. It is therefore important to circulate this newsletter to many people and keep on expanding our mailing list. Contributions are not limited to, but also include the following:

- Funding priorities which readers might be able to link into for funding bids.
- Forthcoming publications, conferences, symposiums, workshops and seminars
- News from DPOs and other civil society organisations, local and national government
- International disability issues;
- Stories from research;
- Ideas for research that readers would like to explore with interested others,
- Disability studies teaching materials and resources,
- Links to new policy and user consultation,
- Research projects, completed theses, and other information that might be useful to share.
- Useful websites
- Other ideas for developing the newsletter.

Contributors to this e-newsletter should ensure that they do not send attachments as we want to keep it workable, informal and relatively easy to read. Submissions should use simple text version for easy accessibility. Submissions should be emailed to Tsitsi Chataika at: tchataika@sun.ac.za by the 30th of every month, and the newsletter is usually emailed to readers not later than the 6th of each month.

A copy of this Newsletter and previous editions are available at:
<http://www.breakthrough-uk.co.uk/Resources/drn> and
<http://www.rihsc.mmu.ac.uk/news/>,

Contact Details

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DISABILITY CONFERENCE REPORTS FOR 2010

Society for Disability Studies Annual Conference: Disability in the Geo-Political Imagination

Felicity Grey f.grey@unimelb.edu.au

This was my second SDS and I plan to attend many more because SDS brings together a critical mass of disability scholars, activists, artists and ratbags (and motley combinations!) There's so much at SDS that this is a tiny glimpse.

The highlight for me was Eli Clare's workshop "Who is here and who is not?" This was a collective, self-reflective exercise, examining who is present at the conference and in our work and why. More than anyone else within disability work, Eli presents a rigorous intersectional analysis. He made a compelling case for "absence as motivation" – that seeking to understand absences in our own work propels us forward. Eli Clare's book *Exile and Pride* was my introduction to Critical Disability Studies – and I do love meeting theorists whose work has stimulated my own!

Other highlights for me involved panels honouring Chris Bell – an active, young disability scholar, who died late last year. I met Chris in Melbourne at an Identity conference, and I was struck by his intellect, passion and joy. He was the kind of intellectual who compelled you to engage more deeply, broadly, passionately and with rigorous self-honesty! His work was made available to conference delegates, but these panels were opportunities for scholars to honour his contribution with their own.

I presented on a panel welcoming newcomers, organised by Margaret Price – a gem who doesn't just talk about being "more welcoming" but enacts structural changes. I found the conference overwhelming as a newcomer last year – too much stimulation to navigate unaided – so I relished this opportunity to demystify the conference and to discuss big issues (like "how to approach that famous disability scholar" and "the pain of missing sessions because you are on the brink of exhaustion").

The international caucus was an opportunity to share developments in critical disability studies across the world, and to gripe about American scholars' failure to locate geo-politically themselves, and their tendency to engage in scholarly colonialism. This is an argument already made by Australians Raewyn Connell and Helen Meekosha, but wonderful to hear emerging from lived experience around the world ... ok, not exactly wonderful, but motivating!

Critical Disability Studies is taught at several universities in the States and Canada and is available in some places as a full degree! So there are dozens of bright young things coming through, approaching the subject from incredibly diverse angles. It was especially interesting to see Australia discussed from a global perspective – apparently, many of our disability studies courses are emerging in areas like social welfare and education, in Canada in social sciences/humanities, and the humanities in the US.

Finally, the SDS dance alone is worth the flight! It's almost impossible to capture in words the magic of an SDS dance, but for me it literally embodies critical disability studies. There's palpable joy in the movement of bodies: people lurch, jerk, spin, tilt, flirt, hold each other for balance, show off, shine and manipulate the environment for their dancing needs. Some limit their movement due to chronic pain or find a quiet corner to continue passionate dialogues. The dance floor becomes a cacophony of human variation. No one is "aspiring to normality," in fact, it challenges me (who can pass for normal) to find the joy in my own body in new ways and to be more honest about my own human vulnerabilities. It's a vision of the world that embodies, embraces and enjoys human variation and vulnerability, rather than seek to ameliorate it, "cure" it or objectify it. Joy!

Disability and the Majority World: Challenging Dominant Epistemologies
Conference Manchester Metropolitan University (MMU), UK
Shaun Grech shaungrech@gmail.com

The one day conference held at the Gaskell campus at MMU, Manchester, successfully brought together academics, disability activists, researchers, NGOs and other stakeholders, to discuss and contribute to the often partial and fragmented debate around disability in the global South. More specifically, it sought to provide an open space for dialogue, and for:

- The articulation and questioning of dominant epistemologies, to instead explore themes often bypassed, ignored or rejected by these dominant intellectual fields such as the Western disability studies
- Engaging alternative approaches to knowledge and its generation
- Challenging dominant epistemologies and exploring the possibilities of developing a disability studies that is both critical and global.

The first presentation by Shaun Grech (MMU), *Intersections in Disability, Poverty and Development: a global disability studies?*, problematised some of the complexities in articulating a debate around disability, development, and poverty, highlighting how various gaps remain, bound to a Western disability studies and its

epistemologies such as the social model, unequipped and even unwilling to engage with contextual, historical, economic and many other critical aspects that differentiate the global South in its complex heterogeneity. Grech concluded that the exportation of Western epistemologies will not do, extending the call for a critical global disability studies, that is interdisciplinary, open, questioning and willing to learn, and to challenge its own ideas at the core.

Susan Buell from the University of East Anglia, in her presentation '*Social, medical or ch'alla? The poisoned chalice of the disability professional*', focused on people with a communication impairment in Bolivia to explore the experiences of families and the spaces where they find representation, support and information. Buell among other things, argued that the concept of the 'disability professional' within the western social model context, continues to be enmeshed with that of the medical model in the exportation of knowledge. Overall, within dominant models of disability, 'specialist knowledge', she argued is viewed as a poisoned chalice, which is only made such in practice by ignoring the value that skilled knowledge can contribute to breaking down barriers for families by providing support at the micro level, especially when professionals are willing to gain and share knowledge and to work along with traditional systems.

Alison Sheldon from the University of Leeds, in her presentation '*Locating disability in the majority world: geography or poverty?*', adopted a materialist social model approach, and argued around/against the notion of a majority world as a separate space and a poverty within, as something different or separate from that in the West, drawing instead similarities between poverty in the global South and homeless people in the UK, stating that experiences of deprivation among other things are shared and operate on similar dynamics, and which in turn even opens the spaces for relevance of Western theories.

The next presentation entitled '*Rising to the challenge of inclusive networking: Balancing insider and outsider perspectives*' by Susie Miles from the University of Manchester, introduced the Enabling Education Network (EENET), while reflecting on the meaning of inclusive education, highlighting the culturally determined nature of this concept. Drawing from practice in various African countries, Miles argued that some of the most interesting and pioneering practice in making education accessible for all is happening in countries of the South, often with very few resources. Miles then addressed inclusive networking and themes in doing contextually relevant research, while considering some of the dangers of the inappropriate exportation of Northern concepts.

Dan Goodley and Rebecca Lawthom from MMU, in their presentation '*Hardt and Negri and the sociological imagination: Empire, Multitude and Critical Disability Studies*', took off from the notion that critical disability studies should be aware of the inequities of globalisation, and the need to place an analysis of disability at the epicentre of a geo-political imagination. They argued that the analyses of Hardt and Negri provides a necessary productive sociological imagination often missing from disability studies, concluding that this work can be usefully employed to theorise 'disablism in Empire', whilst articulating the activism of the 'disabled multitude' in ways that speak across South/North divides.

The final presentation by academic and advocate Anita Ghai from Jesus and Mary College (Teen Murti Fellow) in India, '*Engaging with Disability: An Indian Perspective*', provided an in-depth view of disability within a very specific Indian context, arguing that while discourses have shifted and changed elsewhere, disabled people continue to face a very different reality in a very specific Indian context and culture, highlighting at various points key aspects of daily struggle for survival of disabled people, meanings of disability. Ghai also raised various questions about globalisation and the impact of international NGOs, again within the Indian context.

The conference, provided the initial platform for what will become the first international conference around disability and the majority world, and which will be hosted by the Research Institute for Health at Social Change (RIHSC), MMU, in Manchester, UK. The first is entitled *Disability and the Majority World: Open Debates* and will be held on the 9th-10th July, 2011. The official call for abstracts will soon be released and all details will be posted at: <http://disabilityworld.wordpress.com/>. For all information about this and the previous conference, please contact Shaun Grech: shaungrech@gmail.com

5th Bi-Annual Disability Studies Conference University of Lancaster, UK

Information for the recent Uk Disability Studies Conference held at Lancaster University can be downloaded from the following websites:

The 2010 conference archive has been created (http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/events/disabilityconference_archive/2010/) and the webcasts of the keynote sessions are available to view on line (http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/events/disabilityconference_archive/2010/keynote.htm).

Powerpoint slides and other documents that have been submitted by presenters can be found at:
http://www.lancs.ac.uk/fass/events/disabilityconference_archive/2010/presenters.htm

RGS International Conference Geographies of (dis)ability, (ill)health, emotion and affect Karen Soldatic k.soldatic@curtin.edu.au

Louise Holt, Loughborough University, Jennifer Lea, Loughborough University and Hannah MacPherson, University of Brighton organised four special sessions on the geographies of (dis)ability, (ill)health, emotion and affect at this year's Royal Geographical Society Annual Conference in London. The aim of these sessions was to explicitly connect work on the geographies of (dis)ability, ill health and wellbeing with research on emotion and /or affect. A total of 14 papers were presented by disability researchers from across the globe, including Australia and New Zealand.

The papers covered a broad range of themes within the ambit of disability research and topics included affect and the workplace, therapeutic spaces and places, creative spaces and the production of disability arts, childhood and the affective experience of space and place, and finally, affective relationships of support.

I particularly enjoyed Donna Reeve's presentation, *The experience of psycho-emotional disablism*. Drawing upon interviews with people with physical impairments, Donna revealed the ways in which 'affect' is deeply inter-related to structural processes of disability exclusion, marginalisation and oppression, an area of disability research which has been mostly overlooked by social model proponents as it is often relegated to the realm of 'the personal'. This was a great paper and I would encourage anyone who is interested in the politics of affect, emotion and disability to make contact with Donna to get a copy!

Other papers that were also interesting were two papers presented by Lindsay Stephens & Co. from the University of Toronto and Jennifer Lea & Co from Loughborough University. These two papers focused on disabled children's experience of space and place. Lindsay Stephens' paper outlined the ways in which children with disabilities negotiate a range of spaces, navigating social expectations within these environments. Jennifer Lea et al.'s paper explored the ways in which socio-normative constructions of behaviour worked across scales to become embedded within the school curriculum, and in turn, marginalising children with disability.

The final session ran as a panel conducted by Hester Parr, University of Glasgow, Louise Holt, University of Loughborough, Mark Paterson, University of Exeter and Ed Hall, University of Dundee. The discussion centred on the future areas of research, particularly the ways in which different conceptualisations of geographies of affect can be harnessed by the disability movement for collective mobilisation. These discussions tie in with work emerging in area others of social movement research, particularly around the emotions shame, rage and anger.

The abstracts for the sessions can be accessed at:

https://docs.google.com/Doc?docid=0AaZh0YTEak1VZHpzNDR2N18xMTA5ZDdza214ZzU&hl=en_GB

NEXT EDITION: DECEMBER 2010

We are keen to increase CDS members' contributions to the newsletter. Please contact Karen Soldatic on k.soldatic@curtin.edu.au with any book reviews, research profiles, call for papers and other relevant information that you may like to add prior to 10 December 2010.

APPENDIX**TASA DISABILITY ACCESS, INCLUSION AND PARTICIPATION
GUIDELINES**

This document provides guidelines for promoting access, inclusion and participation of people with disabilities in TASA events, communications, administration and governance. All members with an official role in carrying out the functions and tasks associated with TASA should refer to these guidelines. Where appropriate the guidelines will be incorporated into TASA's Memorandums of Understanding (e.g. conference, public lecture, thematic groups).

Preface

Definition: Persons with disabilities include those who have long-term physical, mental, intellectual or sensory impairments which in interaction with various barriers may hinder their full and effective participation in society on an equal basis with others

Source: United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, Article 1

Language: One aim of these guidelines is to promote an awareness of disability issues through recommendations about use of language. This should avoid the perpetuation of assumptions about disabled people and ensure the writing of sociologists does not cause offence. The adoption of these guidelines should help to challenge 'disablism' in sociological education and research, promote a social, political and cultural rather than individual model of disability, and support non-discriminatory practice.

Language and terminology change through time and may be challenged. The use of particular words can reinforce beliefs and prejudices, but can also be used to challenge these. As such, it must be recognised that the meaning of these terms will be subject to revision and/or change at a faster rate than these or any other guidelines or sources may be issued.

TASA recommends using the following non-disablist terms when referring to people with a disability.

<i>DISABLIST (avoid)</i>	<i>NON-DISABLIST (preferred)</i>
Handicap	Disability
Invalid	Disabled person or person with disability
The disabled /The handicapped	Disabled people or people with disabilities
Special needs	Support needs or assistance
Patient	Person
Abnormal	Different or disabled
Victim of	Person who has / person with
Crippled by	Person who has / person with
Suffering from	Person who has / person with
Afflicted by	Person who has / person with
Wheelchair bound	Wheelchair user
The blind	Blind and partially sighted people or visually impaired people
The deaf	Deaf or hard of hearing people
Cripple or crippled	Disabled or mobility impaired person
The mentally handicapped	People / person with an intellectual disability; people / person

Retarded / backward	with cognitive disability / impairment People / person with an intellectual disability; people / person with cognitive disability / impairment
Mute or dumb	Person with communication impairment
Mentally ill or mental patient	Mental health service user / mental health service consumer
Able bodied person	Non-disabled person

Source: Adapted and amended to the Australian context from the British Sociological Association ~ Equality & Diversity ~ Disability [April 2004]

Outcomes: There are six desired outcomes of TASA's Disability Access, Inclusion and Participation Guidelines. These are that:

1. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the **services** of and any **events** organised by TASA.
2. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to access the **buildings** and other facilities of TASA (i.e. our office space).
3. People with disabilities receive **information** from TASA in a format that will enable them to access the information as readily as other people are able to access it.
4. People with disabilities receive the same level and **quality of service** from the staff of TASA as other people receive from the staff of TASA.
5. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to make **complaints** to TASA.
6. People with disabilities have the same opportunities as other people to participate in any **public consultations** by TASA.

Source: Adapted from Disability Services Commission WA

TASA ACTIVITIES AFFECTED BY THE GUIDELINES:

While TASA will endeavour to take disability access, participation and inclusion into account when conducting its day to day business, there are several key activities that warrant particular attention.

1. TASA Conference

Registered participants of the TASA Conference should be able to access venues and have the opportunity to be included in all events associated with the conference.

To achieve this, the following guidelines will be implemented:

- The University's Disability Support Officer will be included in the planning of the conference and utilized as a resource person for the local organizing committee (LOC).
- The LOC will use the '**Creating Accessible Events**' checklist as a planning tool (available on TASA Web)
- The registration forms will seek information about access requirements. Where participants have indicated they have access requirements, action is to be taken to follow up, identify requirements and provide appropriate information, venues or services.

- Where participants require a companion or support person, this person will be eligible to attend TASA without paying full registration rates, but will be required to cover costs associated with catering, social events and similar. Companion or support persons may be asked to provide a 'companion card' or other form of identification.
- The Conference Program will include an 'Accessibility Information Page' which includes a disability access map (available at most campuses) and information about the accessibility of transport, venues, toilets, pathways between venues, and other relevant information. Where facilities are NOT accessible, this information needs to be clearly stated.
- Signs for the conference and conference venues need to be visible and useful for navigating between transport, the venues and other relevant places (eg accommodation). Pathways to and from the venues should be accessible.
- Universal symbols associated with access and inclusion will be used on documentation, including webpages.
- Accommodation with disability access will be identified and available to participants with access requirements. A range of options should be provided, including accommodation suitable for students. When displaying information about accommodation on the website, use the universal symbols for access.

2. TASA Public Events: eg Public Lectures, AGM/SGM, Seminars and workshops (including those hosted by thematic groups)

TASA members and members of the public should be able to access TASA Events.

To achieve this, the following guidelines will be implemented:

- The organizers will use the '**Public Participation**' checklist (events) as a planning tool (available on TASA Web)
- Universal symbols associated with access and inclusion will be used on advertising material and other documentation, including websites
- Signs for the event need to be visible and useful for navigating between transport, the venues and other relevant places. Pathways to and from the venues should be accessible.

3. Membership database

The identification of member's needs regarding disability access and inclusion will assist TASA in decision-making and the allocation of resources for carrying out its functions. The registration form will include questions ascertaining member's access requirements. This information will be embedded in the database, so that members with access requirements will be identifiable when registering for events etc.

4. Website

Web-based information about TASA needs to be accessible to users operating in a range of contexts, and who may use specialized software or hardware to assist in reading text. TASA will work towards meeting **Web Content Accessibility Guidelines** (<http://www.w3.org/TR/WAI-WEBCONTENT/full-checklist.html>).

To achieve this, TASA will:

- Meet all relevant Priority 1 checkpoints in the TASAWeb redevelopment process.

- Meet relevant Priority 2 and 3 Checkpoints that can be incorporated into the TASAWeb redevelopment process, with the exception of Priority 3, 11.3 (Provide information so that users may receive documents according to their preferences re language, content type etc).
- Create content that meets Priority 2 Checkpoint requirements; and, where practical, meets Priority 3 Checkpoint requirements

5. Electronic communication (E-list)

The TASA E-list is an important means of communication with the membership and it therefore needs to be accessible. The following guidelines will be implemented:

- The typeface and styles used will be clear and simple
- Where colours are used they will be high contrast and clearly visible
- A Word or HTML version of attachments will be available

6. TASA Office

The TASA Executive Officer needs to be aware of potential access requirements in order to provide appropriate member services and be a resource for members who are organizing events, conferences or developing websites. As part of the induction process, the TASA Executive Officer will undertake disability awareness training which will be updated as required.

7. TASA consultation processes

TASA undertakes to have a systematic process for including people with disabilities in the consultation process regarding the development or review of policies; and when issues pertaining to access, inclusion and participation are being addressed by the TASA Executive. This includes:

- Seeking advice from the Critical Disability Studies TG as TASA's consultative partner
- Inviting comment and suggestions from members identifying as having access requirements
- Seeking feedback on accessibility in evaluations of TASA events, conferences etc