

# Dis/entangling critical disability studies: implications for inclusive education

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## Critical Disability Studies

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politics

01

Contemporary disability studies occupy and agitate for what Carol Thomas (2007) defines as a transdisciplinary space: breaking boundaries between disciplines; deconstructing professional/lay distinctions and decolonizing traditional medicalised views of disability with socio-cultural conceptions of disablism.

Thomas (2007: 73) defines *disablism* as ‘a form of social oppression involving the social imposition of restrictions of activity on people with impairments and the socially engendered undermining of their psycho-emotional well being’

# What is critical disability studies?

# 02

trans-disciplinary space ... emerging  
insights

# Theorising through materialism





# Bodies that matter



# Inter/transactionality





For Kurt being born with no bladder meant that this had been a daily experience for him and ‘no big deal’ though he not told any of his close friends. One day he plucked up the courage to tell a couple of pals about his use of catheter. By the end of the day, his new name around the school was ‘wee-wee boy’. This had made him very angry. He got his revenge against the main bully of the school, who has using this new name, by entering his urine bag into the boy’s schoolbag, out of sight of the teacher in the maths lesson.

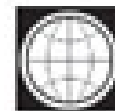
(Goodley and Runswick Cole, in press)

# Global disability studies

## WORLD REPORT ON DISABILITY



World Health  
Organization



THE WORLD BANK

# The self and the Other



**FIGURE 5.5: Alterity of disablism**

<b>The big Other <math>\bar{E}</math></b>	<b><math>\bar{E}</math> is constituted through <math>\bar{E}</math></b>
Cognitively, socially and emotionally able and competent	Disabling society (Oliver, 1990; 1996) or ableist society (Campbell, 2008a, 2008b, 2009)
Biologically and psychologically stable, genetically sound and ontologically responsible	Societies governed by bio and thanatopolitics (Rose, 2001); technology (Lash, 2001), new eugenics and Human Genome Project (Davis, 2002).
Normal: Sane, autonomous, self-sufficient, reasonable, law abiding and economically viable	Mentalism and sanism (Chamberlin, 1990; Lewis, 2008); normalcy (Davis, 1995), normate culture (Garland-Thomson, 1996; Michalko, 2002), normative mobility (Shuttleworth, 2002), normalising society (Tremain, 2005a); neurotic society (Marks, 1999a; Olkin and Pledger, 2003); meritocracy (Fukushima, 2009); entrepreneurial society (Masschelein and Simons, 2005)
White, heterosexual, male, adult, living in towns, global citizen of WENA	Heteronormativity (Sherry, 2004); occidentalism (Venn, 2001), colonialism (Fanon, 1993); self-contained individualism (Sampson, 1977, 1985, 1988, 1993); patriarchy, malestream and phallocentric society (Hare Mustin and Marecek, 1992); compulsory heterosexuality, masculinity and ablebodiedness (e.g. Rich, 1987; Connell, 2002; McRuer, 2006)

## Disablism? Ableism?

Campbell's (2009) shift of attention from the conditions of disablism to the norms, standards and unconscious moments of ableism - not just about disability



# Dangers of critical disability studies

# 04

