Section 11: Cultural representations (2): Undoing stigma

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Section 11: Undoing stigma

Previous section: Role of cultural representations in the oppression of disabled people... and in the transformation of their social status

- Stigmatizing representations (previous section)
- Vs reappropriation of cultural representations by DP themselves as a leverage for social change (collective mobilization, disability arts and culture...)

• Importance of alternative « identity narratives » (Scully, 2008)
  – For disabled people themselves
  – To change common (nondisabled) representations of disability
Section 11: Undoing stigma

How? Disabled people producing their own narratives

– Autobiographical memoirs (Scully, 2008)
– Collective mobilization
– Role of information and communication technologies: online communities via social networks, blogs, self-produced podcasts...
– Disability studies
– Disability arts and culture
Collective mobilization: disability prides

Collective mobilization: disability prides

www.disabilitypride.ca

Disability and Society - Anne Revillard

https://www.brighton-pride.org

disability-pride.ch
disabilityprideitalia.org
Taking alternative narratives to the public: the example of disability podcasts
Disability arts

- DP’s « access to the mainstream artistic consumption and production »
- Art « exploring the experience of living with impairment »
- « a critical response to the experience of social exclusion and marginalization »
- Development of « shared cultural meanings »
- Opposition to traditional, therapeutic uses of arts (arts as a means of therapy)

(Barnes & Mercer, 2001, p.529)
« Since its emergence, disability arts has made a distinctive contribution to the growing politicization of disabled people. [...] Far from being a sideshow to the « real » political action, disability arts and culture have an important role to play in advancing the interests of disabled people »

(Barnes & Mercer, 2001, p.529)
Disability arts

• The example of disability dance

Video n°1: « Dance for people with disability »
https://youtu.be/b-YMklnX0mg

How does Kitty Lunn (artistic director) conceive disability dance?

How does Jessica de la Rosa (the dancer being interviewed) comments on her dance practice?

To learn more about the Infinity dance theater:
https://www.arts.gov/NEARTS/2014v3-healing-properties-art-health/dancing-disability
Disability arts

- The example of disability dance

Video n°2: « Disabled leaders in dance” : https://youtu.be/2A7AjmfpNY4

➔ Input of disability dance for contemporary dance
Disability arts: Presentation 11.1


Changing nondisabled representations of disability: how efficient are disability simulations? Presentation 11.2


