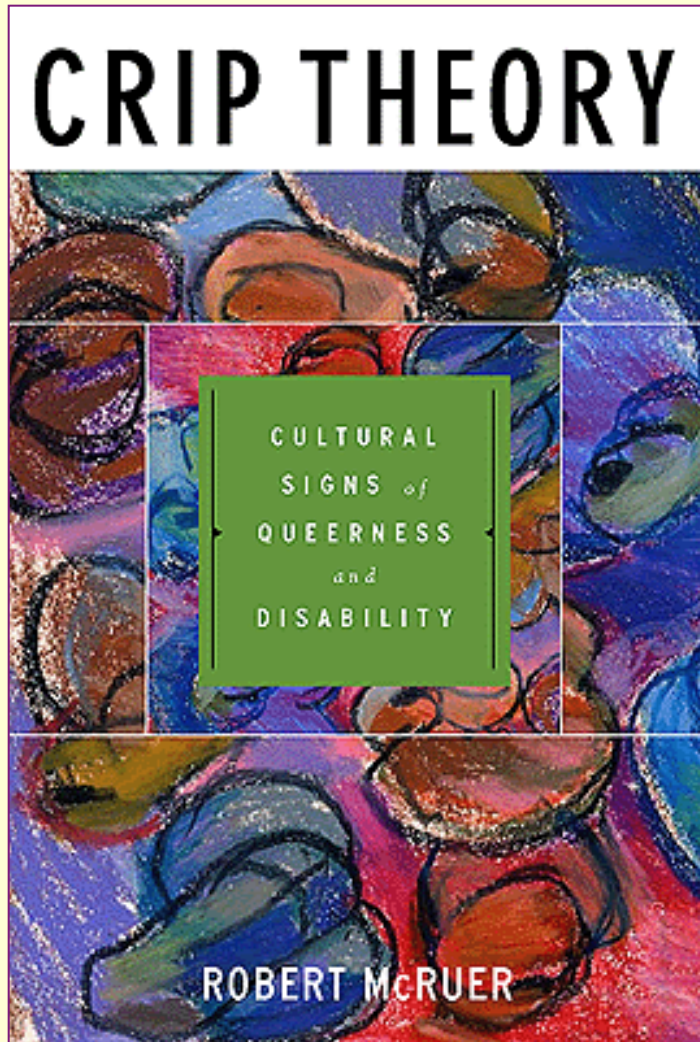


Disability: Culture, Community and Change



Conceptualising Disability Or How we understand disability

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Language and Power

Specialised language

At every level institutional frameworks tend to support the dominant culture

Systems, processes and procedures

Language impositions by authoritative institutions and imperialising regimes

Some of the challenges



Not an homogenous group



Disability as social denies the reality of the impairment



Focus on impairment denies the reality of the disability occasioned by the social (Culture and Structure)



Not all want to belong to the one group



Not all able to be “proud” of our impairment



Pragmatism

Disability

- Noun
- “lack of competent
 - power,
 - strength, or
 - physical or
 - mental ability;
- incapacity”.

The DIS factor

- engenders some oppositional, or at least less than optimal thing or things
 - issues
 - situations
 - conditions
- In the negative position
- Causes or is not advantageous
- A movement away from some position

Negatively spiralling downwards

- Worsening
- Lessening
- Deteriorating
- Degenerating
- Weakening
- Less than something?
- But what?

The new issues

- Challenging notions of normality
- Challenging the inevitability of disability and handicap accompanying impairment
- Cultural and societal ways of understanding exclusion and inclusion

- Disability is not a consequence of impairment
- Unambiguously socially constructed
- The material conditions and limitations placed on the person BECAUSE of their impairment result in disability

Disability

Is the umbrella term for any or all of

- An impairment of body structure or function

Or

- A limitation in activities

Or

- A restriction in participation

Medical *versus* Social Model

- | | | |
|-------------------------|----|--|
| • PERSONAL problem | vs | SOCIAL problem |
| • medical care | vs | social integration |
| • individual treatment | vs | social action |
| • professional help | vs | individual & collective responsibility |
| • personal adjustment | vs | environmental manipulation |
| • behaviour | vs | attitude |
| • care | vs | human rights |
| • health care policy | vs | politics |
| • individual adaptation | vs | social change |

At the end we still have

- Individual model based on the organic condition of people's bodies and the way in which these can be adjusted, rehabilitated and fixed to approximate normality
- Social model based on identifying and removing social and cultural barriers which disable inclusion
- Integration or integral