



Sex and Disability

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The title of this collection of essays, *Sex and Disability*, unites two terms that the popular imagination often regards as incongruous. The major texts in sexuality studies, including queer theory, rarely mention disability, and foundational texts in disability studies do not discuss sex in much detail. What if "sex" and "disability" were understood as intimately related concepts? And what if disabled people were seen as both subjects and objects of a range of erotic desires and practices? These are among the questions that this collection's contributors engage. From multiple perspectives—including literary analysis, ethnography, and autobiography—they consider how sex and disability come together and how disabled people negotiate sex and sexual identities in ableist and heteronormative culture. Queering disability studies, while also expanding the purview of queer and sexuality studies, these essays shake up notions about who and what is sexy and sexualizable, what counts as sex, and what desire is. At the same time, they challenge conceptions of disability in the dominant culture, queer studies, and disability studies.

Contributors. Chris Bell, Michael Davidson, Lennard J. Davis, Michel Desjardins, Lezlie Frye, Rachael Groner, Kristen Harmon, Michelle Jarman, Alison Kafer, Riva Lehrer, Nicole Markoti?, Robert McRuer, Anna Mollow, Rachel O'Connell, Russell Shuttleworth, David Serlin, Tobin Siebers, Abby L. Wilkerson

Sex and Disability Details

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From Reader Review Sex and Disability for online ebook

Duke Press says

“[S]timulating, thought-provoking, and fascinating. Many of the entries left me with food for thought, including some intriguing reframing of social issues that will inform my own work in the future.”-S. E. Smith, Global Comment

Karli says

There are a few names noticeably missing from this collection, but overall, this is a very strong collection of essays.

Bruno says

Thought provoking. Though as ever, with much of disability studies I'd like to see more of a political economy of sex, queerness and disability. I also find the field quite limited in terms of marginality, and diaspora experiences of disability. Though these caveats shouldn't be taken as a complaint of this volume.

KimberlyRose says

The first chapter connects LGBTQ peoples' rights with Disabled peoples' rights: access and space in both private and public domains, and control of one's body. I think this is fascinating and apt: it really makes the establishing of these rights significant to every single person: it's freedom... to achieve what all humans need, freedom for competence, for autonomy, for psychological relatedness.

The middle of the book wobbles into "hmm, I wonder what I should make for dinner... or, oh, look at that novel on my living room floor, the one that just skid out of my tipping pile! I'll go read that for a bit" land. Translation: Boring. I started to forget the book was about *disability* and sexuality and began wondering, 'When did I pick up a book about [x]?' The focus seemed to shift from *disability*. On the other hand, maybe I missed the point of some essays because of the writing verbiage, the I'm-proving-I'm-smart writing. I don't like having to *dissect* sentence after sentence in order to follow your argument, especially when your points would have been clever and interesting if written succinctly. I would not have lost respect for you in the morning, baby.

Still, the majority of essays I enjoyed and learned from, and, of those, they were sensitive, diverse, unique, and accessible. Worth picking up, just don't be afraid to rummage through the toy box.

I recommend these ones:

A Sexual Culture for Disabled People

Bridging Theory and Experience: A Critical-Interpretive Ethnography of Sexuality and Disability

The Sexualized Body of the Child: Parents and the Politics of "Voluntary" Sterilization...
Sex as "Spock": Autism, Sexuality, and Autobiographical Narrative
Fingered
Desire and Disgust: My Ambivalent Adventures in Devoteeism
Hearing Aid Lovers, Pretenders, and Deaf Wannabees

3.5 stars
