



“[Disability Justice] means we are not left behind; we are beloved, kindred, needed.”
- Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, *Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice*

Call for Submissions: Resisting Ableism, Queering Desirability.

We are pleased to invite submissions for the joint special issue of *Kohl: a Journal for Body and Gender Research* and the DisAbled Women’s Network of Canada, slated for publication in April 2020. Disability community and disability justice movement activists, individuals who identify as living with any form of disability and who are writing from their lived-experiences, independent disability studies researchers, and all Queer, Trans, Black, Indigenous, People of Colour (QTBIPOC) living with disabilities are particularly encouraged to apply.

Our definition of disability is broad. Without it being an exhaustive list, it encompasses the following: learning disabilities (dyslexia, aphasia, dyscalculia, etc.), loss of sight, loss of or reduced mobility, mental health issues (anxiety, post-traumatic stress disorder and other traumas, schizophrenia, etc.) intellectual disability and developmental disabilities, living on the autism spectrum, speech disorder, eating disorders, chronic diseases or pain, environmental hypersensitivities, brain damage and others. While recognizing that many Deaf people do not identify as having a disability, we also promote the inclusion of people who are Deaf and hard of hearing, in full respect of their identities.

This special issue stems from a collaboration that started with *Kohl* and DAWN co-facilitating a workshop titled “Ableism in Queer Communities: (Re)Queering Desirable Bodies and Minds” at the first LBQ Women’s Conference in Cape Town, South Africa, in July 2019. We would like to continue exploring the following questions: What does resisting ableism in queer communities look like? How do we move away from toxic ideas of what “typically desirable” queer and trans racialized bodies and minds look like toward transformative ideas of justice and liberated queer perspectives and, as Mia Mingus states it, “resist the ableism that divides us?” What does it look like to (re)queer desirability, bodily autonomy and agency for disabled queer folks, particularly QTBIPOCs living with disabilities? At the same time, in the context of West Asia and North Africa, we are interested in conceptualizations of disability justice as indivisible from social justice struggles, and in exploring the gaps that exist between sexuality movements and disability justice movements. We would like to consider and challenge the ways in which many forms of activism favor and visibilize able-bodied individuals, and expose the victim discourse sustained by NGOization and funding trends when it comes to disabilities. We aim to ultimately consider

ableism to be a marker of inclusion in the systems we seek to dismantle, as activists on the margins and operating at the intersection of disability and non-normativity.

Possible topics include but are not limited to:

- Disabled and queer: body/mind desirability and pleasure
- Disabled and queer: on showing up as your full self
- Resisting the isms in queer communities: how do we resist ableism and its intersection with racism, colonialism, capitalism, classism, and cishetero-patriarchy
- Bodily autonomy, agency, and power: on being queer, disabled, and in control
- Loving our disabled body/minds: self-love as community love and movement building
- Crip time is the best time: how queer disabled narratives help us rest and resist the “productivity-at-all-costs” or burnout culture
- Rape culture is rooted in ableism: how queer disabled folks change the narrative
- How disability justice, reproductive justice, racial justice, environmental justice intersect
- Deconstructing ableism through the ugly and the weird
- Access and accessibility in technology: what kind of ICTs?
- Access and archiving: queer/crip histories and modes of documentation
- NGOization and the glorification of certain forms of visible activism at the expense of others
- Being outside the system: disabilities as a weapon of war, neoliberalism, and state formations
- Linguistic pieces on disability justice and how it has been explored in the languages and dialects of Arabic-speaking countries (for the full linguistic call, [click here](#)).

This call is open to transnational submissions, but we will prioritize submissions from West Asia and North Africa.

The deadline for submission is **January 31, 2020**.

To submit a paper, opinion piece, essay, conversation, interview, poem, sci-fi short story, or visual art piece (drawings, photos, etc.), please send your piece to submit@kohljournal.press as a .doc or .docx file, with “Special Issue on Resisting Ableism” as the subject of your e-mail.

We accept work in progress, provided full drafts are submitted. If accepted for inclusion, please note that your paper will be translated to a second language by our team.

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