Disability, Space, and Society
Human rights issues embedded around us

Original course development by Dr. Rob Kitchin, Department of Geography, National University of Ireland, Maynooth, County Kildare, Ireland

Course information

Dr. Dan Jacobson, Department of Geography, FSU
Mary E. Switzer Merit Fellow of the National Institute for Disability and Rehabilitation Research
In collaboration with International Center for the Advancement of Human Rights, FSU
http://www.cahr.fsu.edu

Instructor: Dr. Dan Jacobson
Time: M W 1.00 – 3.30 pm
Location: Bellamy Building 0118
Telephone: 644 8379
Email: djacobso@garnet.acns.fsu.edu
Office: 304 Bellamy Building
Office Hours: M W 11.00 to 12.00 (or by appointment)

Summer Session B (May 8th – June 14th)

GEO 4930 Sect 02 Geog & Disabilities
GEO 5934 Sect 02 Geog & Disabilities

(with differing expectations and requirements for undergraduate/ graduate academic levels)

Readings will be placed in the Bellamy copy center and also on reserve at Strozier library.

Synopsis

In this course, students will explore how geography has contributed to the study of disability issues and explore the socio-spatial processes that underlie and reproduce the geographies of disability, i.e the fundamental denial of human rights-access to housing, education, employment, and the built environment. More sinister is the historical issue of eugenics that is now re-emerging as 'new-eugenics' under the wealth of ethical issues surrounding genetic engineering. Recently highlighted by debates around stem cell research. In particular, the course will focus upon issues of human rights, exclusion, domination and resistance, social justice, and the reciprocal relations between society and space. A number of substantive and conceptual issues relating to living with disabilities in contemporary society, including planning and access, transport and mobility, employment and poverty, tourism and recreation, will be introduced and examined. The course will draw mainly on UK and US studies and writing.

The World Health Organization states that 10% to 15% of any given society can be classified as "disabled". It is also highly likely as society ages these very issues are ones we will have to confront. There is fierce debate between medical and socially constructed models of disability, and as to what constitutes a disability (visible/invisible etc.)

For example, I am a "disabled person" because my legs don't function and I use a wheel chair- this is my "impairment". Is it society that "disables me" and denies my human rights because an architect thought 3 steps down and 3 steps up would make for a pleasant entrance to the library I need to access?

Objectives
1. To gain an understanding of the complex relationships between disability, space and society.
2. To explore how disabled people are denied their human rights.
3. To gain an understanding of the everyday geographies of living with disabilities.
4. To gain an understanding of the links between academic theory and the lives people live, and of researching disability issues.

Operation
The course aims to operate as a form of border pedagogy, valuing the knowledges and experiences of those undertaking the course and relating these to the writings of others. As such, the course is designed to not just value the views of the teacher and the texts read but also the thoughts and opinions of the participants. The course will consist of lectures leading to seminars, and possible focus group based fieldwork. The lectures will blend to seminars after opening doorways for discussion. The seminar will consist of open discussion of the themes developed in the readings, and highlighted in the lectures with additional material supplied where needed.

Assessment
Grades will be based upon
Participation 50% (class discussion, evidence of completing readings)
Paper or Project 50%

Project work could potentially involve
-Accessibility audits of the built environment
-Accessibility audits of technology, i.e. usability studies
-Accessibility audits of internet sites
-Researching the implications of the American's with Disabilities Act, its current status, and potential dismantling by the Supreme Court

The project work should be documented, and presented with similar guidelines to the paper below.

Paper topics
A paper concerning the socio-spatial processes that underlie and reproduce geographies of disability, and their implications for human rights.
The paper should not be purely descriptive but should be theoretically-driven. That is, you need to move beyond what and where to explain *why* these geographies have occurred; to detail theories of socio-spatial identity and exclusion in relation to the geographies of disability and their fundamental implications for human rights.
There is no set length for the paper, but a rough guide would be 10-15 pages double spaced, 10 or 12 point font with reasonable margins.

Grading Scale

The following grading scale will be used to compute final grades:

A   = 92.5%- 100%
A- = 90.0% - 92.4%
B+ = 87.5% - 89.9%
B   = 82.5% -87.4%
B- = 80.0% - 82.4%
C+ = 77.5% - 79.9%
C   = 72.5% - 77.4%
C- = 70.0% - 72.4%
D+ = 67.5% - 69.9%
D   = 62.5% - 67.4%
D- = 60.0% - 62.4%
F   = 59.9%
S   = 70% and above
U   = 69.9% and below

Course text (Required)
Kitchin, R.M. (2000) *Disability, Space, and Society,* Geographical Association, Sheffield.
ISBN: 1 899085 87 4
Available in FSU book store

I expect the course to depending on the interests of those involved focus around two main foci:

- the underling and implicit nature of the exclusion of disabled people from their basic human rights
- whether the approaches to resolve this problem are best addressed
    o from 'theoretically' driven social constructions to move towards an inclusive society
    o or by the development of assistive technology that promotes 'universal access' and modifications to the built environment

Clearly there is no simple answer – this will provide the students with a theoretical bridge to the technology driven research that I undertake to develop novel interfaces to computers, that are potentially life enhancing providing opportunities for access to education, information, training and employment.

See http://www.hapticsoundscapes.org

Course outline – Course schedule
(Additional texts / readings are included as a bibliography at the end of this document)

Week 1 – May 8th
1. Introducing the course.

Jacobson, R.D. (2000) Exploring Geographies of Blindness: Learning, Reading and Communicating Geographic Space. PhD, Queen's University of Belfast, Geographies of Disability, Chapter 2

Park, D., Radford, J. and Vickers, M. (1998) Disability studies in human geography, *Progress in Human Geography*, 22, 208-233.

Week 2 – May 13th, May 15th
2. Geographies of Exclusion
Cresswell, T. (1996) *In Place/Out of Place: Geography, Ideology and Transgression*. UCL Press, London. Chapter 2 (Geography, ideology, and Transgression: A Relational Ontology).

Jackson, P. (1989) *Maps of Meaning*. Routledge, London. Chapter 3 (Culture and Ideology).

Week 3 – May 20th, May 22nd
3. Approaching Disability / Understanding Ableism
French, S. (1993) Disability, impairment or somewhere in between? In J. Swain, V. Finkelstein, S. French and M. Oliver (Eds.) *Disabling Barriers - Enabling Environments*. Milton Keynes: Open University, pp. 17-25.

Dear, M., Wilton, R., Gaber, S., Takahashi, L. (1997) Seeing people differently: the sociospatial construction of disability. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 15: 455-480.

Week 4 – May 27th, May 29th
4. Geography and Disability / Geographies of Ableism
Golledge, R.G. (1993) Geography and the disabled: a survey with special reference to vision impaired and blind populations. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 18, 63-85.

Gleeson, B.J. (1996) A geography for disabled people? *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 21: 387-396.

Imrie, R.F. (1996) Ableist geographies, disablist spaces: Towards a reconstruction of Golledge's geography and the disabled. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 21: 397-403.

Imrie, R. (1996) *Disability and the City: International Perspectives*. Paul Chapman Publishing, London. Chapter 1 (Disability and the City; An Overview).

Kitchin, R.M. (1998) "Out of place", "knowing one's place": Towards a spatialised theory of disability and social exclusion. *Disability and Society,* 13(3): 343-356.

Hahn, H. (1986) Disability and the Urban Environment: a perspective on Los Angeles. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 4, 273-288.

Week 5 – June 3rd, June 5th
5. Geographies of Blindness
Butler, R. and Bowlby, S. (1997) Bodies and spaces: an exploration of disabled people's experiences of public spaces. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 15: 411-433.

Kitchin, R.M., Jacobson, R.D., Golledge, R.G. and Blades, M. (in press) Belfast without sight: Exploring geographies of blindness. *Irish Geography.*

Week 6 – June 10th, June 12th
6. Practical Answers to Practical Problems, and the emerging Digital Divide??

Jacobson, R.D. and Kitchin, R.M. (1997) Geographical information systems and people with visual impairments or blindness: Exploring the potential to education, orientation and navigation. *Transactions in GIS.*

Matthews, M.H. and Vujakovic, P. (1995) Private worlds and public places: mapping the environmental values of wheelchair users. *Environment and Planning A* 27, 1069-1083.
Waddell, C.D. (1999) The Growing Digital Divide in Access for People with Disabilities: Overcoming Barriers to Participation in the Digital Economy http://www.aasa.dshs.wa.gov/access/waddell.htm

Jacobson, R.D. Kitchin, R.M., and Golledge R.G. (due 2001) Multimodal virtual reality for presenting geographic information. For Fisher, P. and Unwin, D. (Eds) *Virtual Reality in Geography*. Taylor and Francis.

Jacobson, R.D. (1999) *Geographic visualization with little or no vision,* Association of American Geographers, Geographic Information Systems Student Paper Competition

Attendance Policy

There is no attendance policy for this class. However, you are expected to attend class having read the assigned readings. Remember that 50% of your grade is devoted to class participation. You cannot participate if you are not in class!

Students with Disabilities

Students with disabilities needing academic accommodations should: (1) Register with and provide documentation to the Student Disability Resource Center (SDRC); and (2) Bring a letter to me from the SDRC indicating you need academic accommodations. This should be done within the first week of class. Every effort will be made to make the class and learning environment as inclusive as possible.

Extended set of readings / references

1. Introducing the course.

Jacobson, R.D. (2000) Exploring Geographies of Blindness: Learning, Reading and Communicating Geographic Space. PhD, Queen's University of Belfast, Geographies of Disability, Chapter 2
hooks, b. (1994) *Teaching to Transgress: Education as the Practice of Freedom.* Routledge, New York. Chapter 5 (Theory as Liberatory Practice).
Freire, P. (1970) *Pedagogy of the Oppressed.* Penguin, London. Chapter 1.
Park, D., Radford, J. and Vickers, M. (1988) Disability studies in human geography, *Progress in Human Geography*, 22, 208-233.

2. Geographies of Exclusion I.

Cresswell, T. (1996) *In Place/Out of Place: Geography, Ideology and Transgression.* UCL Press, London. Chapter 2 (Geography, ideology, and Transgression: A Relational Ontology).
Sibley, D. (1995) *Geographies of Exclusion.* Routledge, London. Introduction and Chapter 2 (Images of Difference).

3. Geographies of Exclusion II

Jackson, P. (1989) *Maps of Meaning*. Routledge, London. Chapter 3 (Culture and Ideology).

Pratt, G. and Hanson, S. (1994) Geography and the construction of difference. *Gender, Place and Culture* 1: 5-29.

4. Approaching Disability.

French, S. (1993) Disability, impairment or somewhere in between? In J. Swain, V. Finkelstein, S. French and M. Oliver (Eds.) *Disabling Barriers - Enabling Environments*. Milton Keynes: Open University, pp. 17-25.

Oliver, M. (1990) *The Politics of Disablement*. MacMillan, Basingstoke. Chapter 1 (Disability Definitions: The Politics of Meaning).

5. Understanding Ableism I.

Barnes, C. (1997) A legacy of oppression: A history of disability in Western culture. In Barton, L. and Oliver, M. (Eds) *Disability Studies: Past, Present and Future*. Disability Press, Leeds University. pp. 3-24.

Oliver, M. (1996) *Understanding Disability: From Theory to practice*. MacMillan, Basingstoke. Chapter 9 (Understanding the Hegemony of Disability).

6. Understanding Ableism II

Dear, M., Wilton, R., Gaber, S., Takahashi, L. (1997) Seeing people differently: the sociospatial construction of disability. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 15: 455-480.

Hevey, D. (1997) The Enfreakment of Photography. In Davis, L. (ed) *The Disability Studies Reader*. Routledge, London. pp. 332-347.

Pointon, A. and Davies, C. (1997) *Framed: Interrogating Disability in the Media*. BFI, London. Introductions to each section.

7. Geography and Disability

Golledge, R.G. (1993) Geography and the disabled: a survey with special reference to vision impaired and blind populations. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers*, 18, 63-85.

Gleeson, B.J. (1996) A geography for disabled people? *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 21: 387-396.

Imrie, R.F. (1996) Ableist geographies, disablist spaces: Towards a reconstruction of Golledge's geography and the disabled. *Transactions of the Institute of British Geographers* 21: 397-403.

8. Geographies of Ableism

Imrie, R. (1996) *Disability and the City: International Perspectives*. Paul Chapman Publishing, London. Chapter 1 (Disability and the City; An Overview).

Kitchin, R.M. (1998) "Out of place", "knowing one's place": Towards a spatialised theory of disability and social exclusion. *Disability and Society,* 13(3): 343-356.

Hahn, H. (1986) Disability and the Urban Environment: a perspective on Los Angeles. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 4, 273-288.

9. Mental Illness and Mental Impairment I

Philo, C. (1987) "Fit localities for an asylum": the historical geography of the "mad-business" in England viewed through the pages of the Asylum Journal. *Journal of Historical Geography*, 13, 398-415

Smith C.J. and Hanham, R.Q. (1981a) Any place but here! - mental health facilities as noxious neighbours. *Professional Geographer* 33, 326-334.

10. Mental Illness and Mental Impairment II

Parr, H. (1997) Mental health, public space, and the city: questions of individual and collective access. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 15: 435-454.

Laws, G and Dear, M. (1988) Coping in the community: a review of the factors influencing the lives of disintitutionalised ex-psychiatric patients. In Smith, C.J. and Giggs, J. (Eds.) *Location and Stigma: Contemporary Perspectives on Mental Health and Mental Health Care.* Unwin Hyman, London.

11. Planning and Access

Imrie, R.F. and Kumar, M. (1998) Focusing on disability and access in the built environment. *Disability and Society* 13: 357-374.

Matthews, M.H. and Vujakovic, P. (1995) Private worlds and public places: mapping the environmental values of wheelchair users. *Environment and Planning A* 27, 1069-1083.

12. Transport and Mobility

Hesier, B. (1995) The nature and causes of transport disability in Britain, and how to remove it. In Zarb, G. (Ed) *Removing Disabling Barriers.* PSI Publishing, London. pp. 49-63.

Gant, R. and Smith, J. (1991) The elderly and disabled in rural areas: travel patterns in the North Cotswolds. In Champion, T. and Watkins, C. (eds) *People in the Countryside.* London: Paul Chapman Publishing.

Gant, R. and Smith, J. (1998) Shopmobility, personal mobility and disabled people. *Geography* 83: 280-291.

13. Employment and Poverty

Berthoud, R. Social security, poverty and disabled people. In Zarb, G. (Ed) *Removing Disabling Barriers.* PSI Publishing, London. pp. 77-86.

Kitchin, R.M., Shirlow, P. and Shuttleworth, I. (In Press) On the margins: Disabled people's access to and experiences of employment in Donegal, West Ireland. *Disability and Society.*

Murray, B. (1994) Disability, Exclusion and Poverty: What are the issues? n.a. *Disability, Exclusion and Poverty.* (Dublin, Combat Poverty Action).

Oliver, M. (1991) Disability and participation in the labour market. In Brown, P. & Scase, R. (Ed) *Poor Work: Disadvantage and the Division of Labour.* (Milton Keynes, Open University Press).

14. Tourism

Touche-Ross (1993) *Tourism 2000: Tourism for All in Europe: Profiting from Opportunities, a New Market for Tourism.*

Graham Mowl and Clare Edwards, 1996, *Leisure, space and disability*, University of Northumbria at Newcastle, Division of Geography and Environmental Management, Departmental Occasional Paper No.16.

15. Geographies of Blindness

Butler, R. and Bowlby, S. (1997) Bodies and spaces: an exploration of disabled people's experiences of public spaces. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 15: 411-433.

Kitchin, R.M., Jacobson, R.D., Golledge, R.G. and Blades, M. (in press) Belfast without sight: Exploring geographies of blindness. *Irish Geography.*

16. Geographies of Disabled Resistance

Barnes, C. and Mercer, G. (1995) 'Disability: Emancipation, Community Participation and Disabled People' in M. Mayo and G. Craig (eds.) *Community Empowerment: A Reader in Participation and Development*, London: Zed Books, pp. 46-59.

Campbell, J. and Oliver, M. (1996) *Disability Politics: Understanding Our Past, Changing Our Future.* Routledge, London. Chapter 4.

17. Practical Answers to Practical Problems.
Jacobson, R.D. and Kitchin, R.M. (1997) Geographical information systems and people with visual impairments or blindness: Exploring the potential to education, orientation and navigation. *Transactions in GIS*.

Fry, C. (1988) Maps for the physically disabled. *The Cartographic Journal*, 25, 20-28.

18. Reacting to Ableism: Social Justice
Smith, D. (1994) *Geography and Social Justice.* Blackwell, Oxford. Chapter 2 (Elements of Justice).

Young, I.M. (1990) *Justice and the Politics of Difference.* Princeton: Princeton University Press. Chapter 1 (Displacing the Distributive Paradigm).

19. Disability and Gender
Dyck, I. (1995) Hidden Geographies: The Changing Lifeworlds Of Women With Disabilities, *Social Science and Medicine*, 40(3): 307-320.

Morris, J. (1996) Introduction. In Morris, J. (Ed) *Encounters with Strangers: Feminism and Disability.* The Women's Press, London.

20. Doing Disability Research I:
Barnes, C. and Mercer, G. (1997) 'Breaking the mould? An introduction to doing disability research', in C. Barnes and G. Mercer (eds.) *Doing Disability Research,* University of Leeds, Leeds: Disability Press, pp. 1-14.

Stone, E. and Priestley, M. (1995) 'Parasites, pawns and partners: disability research and the role of non-disabled researchers', *British Journal of Sociology* 47, 4: 696-716.

21. Doing Disability Research II
Chouinard, V. and Grant, A. (1995) On being not even near `the project': Ways of putting ourselves in the picture. *Antipode* 27: 137-166.

Kitchin, R.M. (In Press) Ethics and morals in geographical studies of disability. Proctor, J. and Smith, D. (Eds) *Geography and Ethics: Journeys through a Moral Terrain*, Routledge.

Parr, H. (in press) The politics of methodology in 'post-medical geography': mental health research and the interview. *Health and Place*.

22. Towards an inclusive society I:
Chouinard, V. (1997) Editorial: Making space for disabling differences: challenging ableist geographies. *Environment and Planning D: Society and Space* 15: 2-6.

Oliver, M. (1995) Disability, empowerment and the inclusive society. In Zarb, G. (Ed) *Removing Disabling Barriers.* PSI Publishing, London. pp. 17-26.