

8th Annual Conference of

ALTER

EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR
DISABILITY RESEARCH

HISTORIES, PRACTICES AND POLICIES OF DISABILITY

International, Comparative and
Transdisciplinary Perspectives

Cologne, Germany // 5 & 6 September 2019



Technology
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IDIS INTERNATIONAL
RESEARCH UNIT
DISABILITY STUDIES

HISTORIES, PRACTICES AND POLICIES OF DISABILITY. INTERNATIONAL, COMPARATIVE AND TRANSDISCIPLINARY PERSPECTIVES

Disability is a multidimensional phenomenon: it is understood as a lived experience, a social practice, a cultural trope and an international policy issue. A growing body of scholars investigates disability as a historical, social, political and cultural construction. In the age of the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD), discourses on disability can be traced throughout a multiplicity of histories, narratives, practices and policies. The existing landscape of innovative disability research and political interventions consists of a broad spectrum of theoretical concepts, methodological and empirical approaches and ethical foundations, and draws from the political and social sciences, historical research as well as the cultural studies approaches. Studying disability as a multifaceted object of research raises the following questions:

- How is historical, socio-political and cultural knowledge about embodiment, health, normality, impairment and dis/ability produced and transformed?
- How are theories and concepts of disability translated into empirical methodology (e.g. participatory and/or emancipatory research), and how can disability research and critical disability studies inform general academia and political practice?
- How do individual and social identities, self-conceptions and body images intersect with societal structures, social institutions, identity politics, political governance and cultural representations?
- What are the political, social and cultural consequences of a disability research that relates to general debates on historical legacies, social inequality, post-colonialism, human diversity, fundamental rights, participation, exclusion and inclusion?

This conference aims to contribute to the thriving discourse of international, comparative and transdisciplinary disability research. It offers a platform for debates and conversations between regions, disciplines and theoretical perspectives. It presents an opportunity for exchange between young scholars and senior researchers in disability research and critical disability studies.

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS

Susan Burch is Director of the Program in American Studies and a former director of the Center for the Comparative Study of Race and Ethnicity at Middlebury College in Vermont (USA). Her research and teaching interests focus on the overlaps of deaf, disability, race, indigeneity, gender, and sexuality in late nineteenth- and twentieth-century U.S. history. In addition to serving as a research associate at the Smithsonian National Museum of American History in Washington, DC, Susan has taught at Gallaudet University (US), King's College (University of Aberdeen, Scotland), Charles University (Prague, Czech Republic) and the Ohio State University (US). Susan is a cofounder and board member of the Disability History Association and has served on the Society for Disability Studies' board of directors.

Marie Sépulchre is a researcher at the Department of Sociology at Uppsala University, Sweden. Her research interests centre on citizenship, disability, activism and structural inequalities. Marie's work has been published in international peer-reviewed journals such as *Alter – European Journal of Disability Research*, the *Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research*, *Disability and Rehabilitation*, and *Disability and Society*. She recently completed her PhD at Uppsala University, with a dissertation entitled *This is not Citizenship. Analysing the Claims of Disability Activists in Sweden*.

Michael Schillmeier is professor of Sociology at the Department of Sociology, Philosophy and Anthropology at the University of Exeter/UK. He received his PhD from Lancaster University/UK and his diploma from LMU Munich. He has widely written on the eventful dynamics of the heterogeneity of societal orderings, outlining the relevance of embodied, sensory and affective relations, objects and technologies. His research includes Science and Technology Studies, Dis/ability Studies and the Sociology of Health and Illness. His work is cross-disciplinary and links Sociology with Philosophy, Anthropology and Art.

Mark Priestley is Professor of Disability Policy in the School of Sociology and Social Policy at the University of Leeds. He established and has led the European Commission's Academic Network of European Disability experts (ANED), directing its research programme across 35 countries for the past decade. He is currently engaged in analysing and writing about this work for publication. His research interests include international and comparative perspectives on (European disability) public policy, issues of the policy process, (international human rights policies) monitoring and governance, realizing rights, the disabled people's movement, and mixed/comparative methods.

THE UNIVERSITY OF COLOGNE (UoC)

The UoC was founded in 1388 and, since then, has become a hub of research and scholarship in Europe. It is considered one of the largest German universities, alongside Free University of Berlin and the University of Munich, and is one of the leading research universities in Germany as it won funding for four excellence

clusters through the Excellence Initiative launched by the German federal and state governments to support outstanding projects and institutions at German universities. The UoC is a full university with six faculties covering a broad spectrum of disciplines and offering many internationally outstanding research profile areas. The life and natural sciences are represented by the Faculty of Medicine and the Faculty of Mathematics and Natural Sciences. The Faculty of Management, Economics and Social Sciences and the Faculty of Law both enjoy an excellent reputation in application-oriented research and are regarded as top German institutions in their fields.



The Faculty of Arts and Humanities builds on a comprehensive and broad range of disciplines and has developed many successful research areas, e.g. in pre-modern cultures, medieval studies, literary studies and non-European cultures and languages in general and Africa research and cross-linguistic research in particular. The Faculty of Human Sciences was founded in 2007 and has already established successful research areas in, e.g., intercultural education and social psychology. In addition, its Department of Special Education and Rehabilitation is one of the largest centers in Europe.

INTERNATIONAL RESEARCH UNIT IN DISABILITY STUDIES (iDiS)

Affiliated to the Faculty of Human Sciences is iDiS. This research center was founded in 2004 by Professor Anne Waldschmidt and has been the first of its kind in disability studies in German-speaking countries. The iDiS is dedicated to critical disability studies and internationally renowned for producing interdisciplinary research on disability that combines social sciences approaches with cultural studies.

The logo for the International Research Unit in Disability Studies (iDiS), consisting of the lowercase letters "iDiS" in a bold, blue, sans-serif font.

Over the last years, the iDiS has undertaken a number of major research pro-

jects that have resulted in numerous publications, workshops and lectures. Third-party-funded projects at the iDiS have so far dealt with the following research areas: an international comparison of disability policies, equal rights and accessibility as well as disability history, bioethics, sociology of knowledge, and body theory. The center is involved in the teaching of BA and MA students of (special) education and rehabilitation sciences and holds regular research colloquia for Ph.D. students.

TH KÖLN – UNIVERSITY OF APPLIED SCIENCES

The University of Applied Sciences is a multi- and inter-disciplinary, culturally diverse university of technology, arts, and sciences focused on cultural and technological breakthroughs of high social relevance. Over 90 full-time, career-integrated, or part-time degree programs are offered to about 5,000 students annually and 26,000 students altogether. Students in TH Köln come from approximately 120 different countries to learn from 430 professors.

Research in various interdisciplinary fields of Social Work, Education and Social Sciences is organized into five thematic core clusters (Diversity, Media, Profession, Politics and Life ages), conducted in several independent research groups and inter-institutional projects. The Faculty of Applied Social Sciences hosts the University's Competence Center for Migration, Intercultural Education and Organisational Development, a research and transfer unit led by Professor Matthias Otten.

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EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR DISABILITY RESEARCH (ALTER)

ALTER is both a learned society and a peer-reviewed journal (European Journal of Disability Research) dedicated to the research of disability and otherness. While it is based in Europe, both the society and journal are open to the international scientific community and all respective stakeholders (students, teachers, people with disabilities, policymakers, disability organizations, etc...). For more information on ALTER, including past conferences, you may visit their website here: <http://alter-asso.org>

ALTER
EUROPEAN SOCIETY FOR
DISABILITY RESEARCH

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 5, 2019

08:00 **Registration**

Welcome desk with folders for each participant distributed, internet access codes granted based on need, and logistical details explained.

09:00 **H113: Welcome Address - Isabelle Ville, Anne Waldschmidt & Matthias Otten**

09:15 **Michael Schillmeier:**

H113: The Cosmopolitics of Dis/ability Experience. A Manifesto

10:15 **Workshops:**

S103: Disability in arts and culture

S102: Persons with disabilities at the labour market

H114: Accessibility, technologies and materiality

H113: Disability and debates about inclusive education

11:45 **Break**

12:15 **Workshops:**

S103: European disability histories

S102: Disability movements, advocacy and identity politics

H114: Disability in arts and culture

H113: Living in the Community: Between Segregation and Inclusion

13:15 **Lunch Break**

14:15 **Workshops:**

S105: The UN Convention, citizenship and human rights

S103: Disability and debates about inclusive education

S102: Persons with disabilities at the labour market

H114: Methods in disability research

H113: Disability movements, advocacy and identity politics

15:45 **Break**

16:15 **Workshops:**

S105: Disability, the body and embodiment

S103: European disability histories

H114: Disability and debates about inclusive education

H113: Living in the Community: Between Segregation and Inclusion

17:15 **H113: Mark Priestley: From Compensation to Equality? Reflections on National Disability Policies in a Changing Europe and in Transnational Fields**

19:00 **Park Inn Hotel: Conference Dinner & Music ***

FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 6, 2019

09:00 **H113: Susan Burch:** Telling Disability Stories: Legacies, Imagination, Coalitions

10:00 **Workshops:**

S105: Disability and debates about inclusive education

S103: European disability histories & Disability Law and legal Studies

S102: Disability movements, advocacy and identity politics

H114: The UN Convention, citizenship and human rights

H113: Persons with disabilities at the labour market

11:30 **Break**

12:00 **Workshops:**

S105: Disability movements, advocacy and identity politics

S103: Methods in disability research

S102: Persons with disabilities at the labour market

H114: European disability histories

H113: Gender, ethnicity, sexuality and intersectionality

13:30 **Lunch Break**

14:15 **Workshops:**

S105: Disability and debates about inclusive education

S103: Living in the Community: Between Segregation and Inclusion

S102: Disability, the body and embodiment

H114: The UN Convention, citizenship and human rights

H113: (Auto-)Biographical Experiences and First Person Perspectives

15:15 **Break**

15:45 **H113: Marie S epulchre (ALTER Young Author Prize Winner):**

Ensuring citizenship for disabled people: A matter of rights or a matter of costs

16:15 **H113: 7th disABILITY Mundus Doctoral School Presentation and General Assembly of ALTER**

17:00 **H113: Closing Remarks -**

Isabelle Ville, Anne Waldschmidt, Matthias Otten & No mie Rapegno

* Park Inn by Radisson K ln City West. Innere Kanalstrasse 15, 50823 Cologne

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<https://alterconf2019.sciencesconf.org>

STEERING COMMITTEE

Anne Waldschmidt, Professor at the University of Cologne,
Director of the International Research Unit in Disability Studies (iDiS):
<https://idis-eng.uni-koeln.de>

Matthias Otten, Professor at the TH Köln - University of Applied Sciences,
Director of the Competence Center for Migration,
Intercultural Education and Organisational Development:
<http://fh-koeln.de/FOSMIK>

Isabelle Ville, Professor at the School of Advanced Studies in the
Social Sciences (EHESS), Research director at the French National
Institute of Health and Medical Research (INSERM)

Curie Lee, University of Cologne, 8th ALTER Conference Contact

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