

World of IDEAS



FALL 2016

SOCIAL SCIENCES RESEARCH AT THE
UNIVERSITY OF OTTAWA

Mobilizing Metaphor Art, Culture, and Disability Activism in Canada

Edited by Christine Kelly and Michael Orsini



The publication *Mobilizing Metaphor* illustrates how artistic and radical and unconventional forms of activism, including art, are reshaping disability activism in Canada and, in the process, challenging dominant perceptions of disability and the politics that surround it.

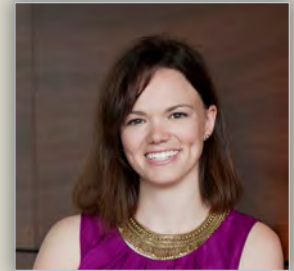
Recent changes to Canadian disability policy have seen disability programs hampered by funding cuts and other austerity measures. But this oppression has also given new life to an already vibrant Canadian tradition of disability activism. Until

now, research has focused on the legal and policy spheres and overlooked disability activism that expresses itself alongside and outside conventional policy reform, often through a variety of art forms.

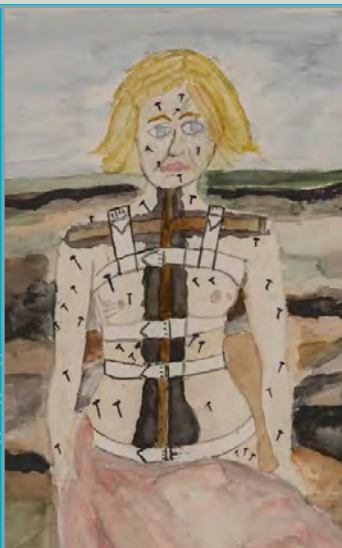
Here, contributions by disability artists, activists, and academics show how disability art is distinctive as both art and social action. Richly illustrated with photographs and other images, and including an insightful concluding chapter by renowned disability scholar Tanya Titchkoksy, this array of artistic, cultural, and radical approaches to disability politics demonstrates that disability activism is as varied as the populations it represents. As the contributors sketch the shifting contours of disability politics in Canada and show how disability oppression is not isolated from other prejudices, they challenge us to re-examine how we enact social and political change.

About the Authors

Christine Kelly is an assistant professor in the Department of Community Health Sciences at the University of Manitoba and a former Banting postdoctoral fellow in the Institute of Feminist and Gender Studies at the University of Ottawa.



Michael Orsini is a full professor in the School of Political Studies and Vice-Dean of graduate studies in the Faculty of Social Sciences at the University of Ottawa. He is interested in critical approaches to health policy and politics and the role of civil society actors in policy processes. His work has appeared



Painting by Diane Driedger



Panels of dolls from Constructed Identities by Persimmon Blackbridge
COURTESY DELLA MCCREADY

in *Policy and Society*, *Social Policy and Administration*, the *Canadian Journal of Political Science*, and *Social and Legal Studies*, among others. He recently edited *Worlds of Autism: Across the Spectrum of Neurological Difference* (University of Minnesota Press, 2013) and *Critical Policy Studies* (University of British Columbia Press, 2007).

His specializations

- Health policy
- Interest groups and social movements
- Gender and public policy
- Critical disability studies
- Contested illnesses

- Autism politics and policy
- HIV/AIDS
- Interpretive policy analysis



Unleashed from Phonocentrism, 2007 by Jolanta Lapiak

Contributors

Paula Bath, Drew Danielle Belsky, Eliza Chandler, Nadine Changfoot, Kathryn Church, Diane Driedger, Lindsay Eales, Catherine Frazee, Gabriel Blouin Genest, Melissa Graham, Nancy Viva Davis Halifax, Kevin Jackson, Véro Leduc, Alex McClelland, Pamela Moss, Kristin Nelson, Melanie Panitch, Jeffrey Preston, Carla Rice, Jen Rinaldi, Jes Sachse, Tanya Titchkosky, and Jessica Whitbread.

"Mobilizing Metaphor is the essential disabled handbook for living with, through, against, across, and alongside metaphor. Canadian spaces, in this collection, open onto a world of possibility - a necessarily and desirably disabled world where metaphors take surprising and unexpected new forms. For anyone thinking about the cultural work generated by the vibrant languages of disability art and activism, Mobilizing Metaphor is required reading."

- Robert McRuer, author of *Crip Theory: Cultural Signs of Queerness and Disability* and coeditor of *Sex and Disability*

"I can't imagine a collection doing a better job of representing the liveliness, complexity, and spread of disability art, culture, and activism in Canada."

- Jay Timothy Dolmage, author of *Disability Rhetoric*

"This book will change how people think about art, about disability, and about Canadian social movements."

- Sally Chivers, author of *The Silvering Screen: Old Age and Disability in Cinema*