The Individual & Community: Disability Justice

AMS 153: MW 4:10-6pm

Instructor: Megan Bayles

Early disability rights activists in the US focused on the rights of individuals within communities, including the rights of people with disabilities to have access to community resources and basic services, and to live independently. Many disability activists now work within a framework of disability justice, concerned with intersections between systemic forms of oppression – aligning with movements for racial and gender equality, food justice, and LGBTQIA rights – and with promoting and embracing diversity and difference. Rather than pushing for independence, a disability justice model promotes the idea of interdependence: balancing the needs of individuals with the needs of others in the community. This course will look at how independence and interdependence have shaped the relationships between individuals and communities at different points in the history of disability activism in the US, as well as the historical and cultural factors impacting them, including shifts in politics and shifts in medicine and medical care.

GE credit: ArtHum or SocSci, Div, Wrt | ACGH, AH or SS, DD, WE.—II.