Disability Studies in Taiwan: Issues and Challenges
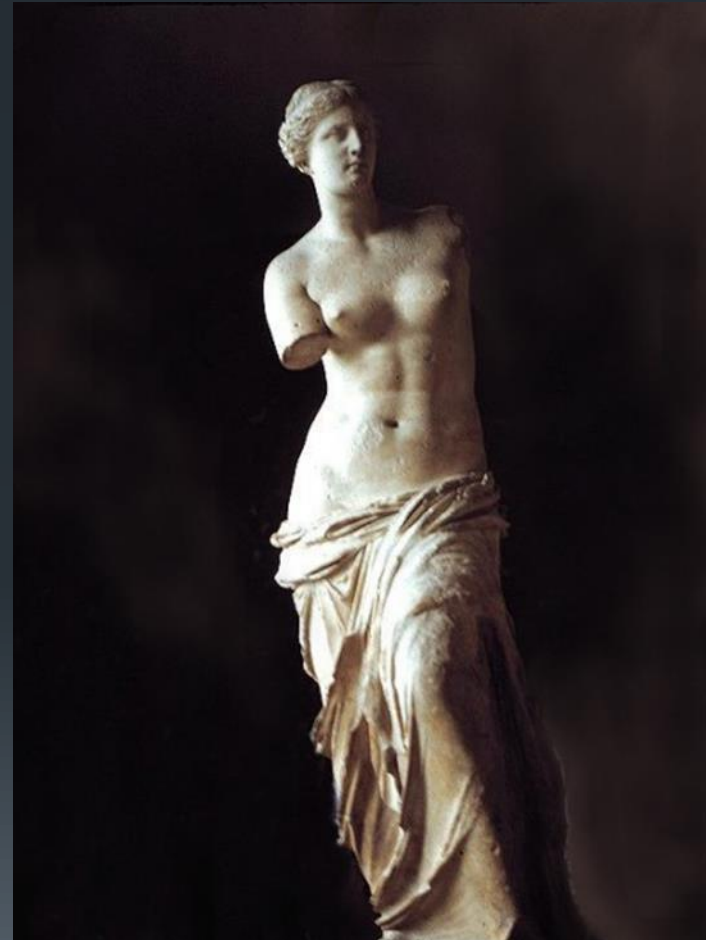
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Outlines

- Definition(s)
- Development
- Findings
- Challenges

Disability Studies?

- From "study disabilities" to "disability Studies"
- Disability studies/non-disability studies
  - (Linton, Simi 1998)
  - liberal arts vs. Medical Model
  - Like women/gender studies, race/ethnicity studies, queer studies, recognizing the social oppression of minority groups (disabled people)

Definition

- Guidelines for DS programs 2002
  - Challenges the dominance of medical, individual, deficit-based models of disability (while not dismissing their contributions)
  - Considers disability part of the continuum of human experience
  - Examines the environmental and social barriers to greater participation
  - Interdisciplinary approach

(Cushing and Smith 2009)

Institutionalization of disability studies

- UK:
  - 1974 Union of the Physically Impaired Against Segregation (UPIAS)
  - Journal:
    - "Disability, Handicap and Society" in 1986 by Oliver & Barton
    - Renamed Disability and Society 1993
  - Disability Research Unit in Leeds, 1992
  - Centre for Disability Studies(CDS) , 1999

- Chronic Disease and Disability Section, Western Social Science Association (WSSA) through
  - Journal
    - Disability and Chronic Illness Quarterly 1980
    - rename Disability Studies Quarterly 1985；
  - SDS
    - the Study of Chronic Illness, Impairment, and Disability of Social Science Association；1982
    - The Society for Disability Studies, 1986

- Nordic countries
  - Nordic Network on Disability Research, NNDR 1997
  - Scandinavian Journal of Disability Research, SJDR 」。

Growth of disability studies

- in US, Canada, UK, Australia, NZ
  - Independent DS departments
  - Hybridization with applied disciplines
  - Integration within the liberal arts

Figure1 (DS Growth all regions 1999 - 2008)

	Full Degree	% growth	Partial Degree	% growth	U	% growth	Grad	% growth
Year								
1999	7		5		2		10	
2003	21	200%	16	220%	14	600%	23	130%
2008	36	71%	30	88%	29	107%	37	61%

Disability studies in Taiwan

- Disability rights movement
- Disability studies

A Brief History: The Disability Rights Movements in Taiwan:1980-2006

- 1981-1987
  - The emergence of the movements: Christian churches, Liu Hisa, and parents' associations
- 1988-1992
  - The alliance and institutionalization of the disability rights social movement organizations
    - The League for Persons with Disabilities (身心障礙聯盟(殘障聯盟))Founded in 1990
    - Parents Association for Persons with Intellectual Disabilities, Taiwan（中華民國智障者家長總會）Founded in 1992
- 1993-2006
  - Engaging in Public Policies
- 2007-2014
  - "New" Disabled people's movement

The development of disability rights movement in Taiwan

- Disability "welfare" movement in Taiwan
  - Focus on social welfare
  - Mostly Charity-oriented NGOs, speak for disabled people or service providers
  - Led mostly by Professionals, lack of the disabled people's participation,
- New generation of disabled people's movement since mid 2000
  - Disability Rights Action Alliance (network based social movement)

Major legislation

- [People with Disabilities Rights Protection Act](#) (身心障礙者權益保障法，身權法)
  - 1980 Handicapped Welfare Act (殘障福利法)
  - 1997 Physically and Mentally Disabled Citizens Protection Act(身心障礙者權益保護法)
    - Incorporate "social model"
  - Renamed in 2007
  - CRPD 2014

Introducing social model to Taiwan

author(year)	disciplinary	Stigma of disability	Critique on capitalism	Critqiue on ableism
林宏熾(2002)	Special Education	O	X	X
董和銳(2003)	Rehabilitation	X	X	X
周月清等人(2004)	Social work	X	△	△
王國羽(2005)	Social welfare	O	O	O
張恒豪(2007)	Sociology	O	O	O
邱大昕(2007)	Sociology	O	O	O

o:mentioned ; △:partly referred to ; X: not mentioned at all

Journal and books

- Journal of Disability Research (身心障礙研究季刊): 2003~
  - Mainly public health oriented, some social work and sociology

- Book and edited book：
  - Wang, Kuo-Yu, Chao-Yin Lin and Heng-Hao Chang, ed., 2012. *Disability Studies: Theory and Policy Application*. Taipei: Chuliu Publisher
    - 王國羽、林昭吟、張恒豪 2012 《障礙研究：理論與政策應用》
  - Sun, Hsiao-yu. 2014 Disability Studies. & Life Writing. Disabled Women's Gender/Sex**.** Body/Politics, & Aesthetics/Poetics
    - 孫小玉 2014 《失能研究與生命書寫：失能女性之性/別、身體政治、現詩/美學》,國立中山大學出版社,高雄
  - Liu, Jen-Peng ed., 2014 Lingering Disabilities: A Reader for the 21st Century
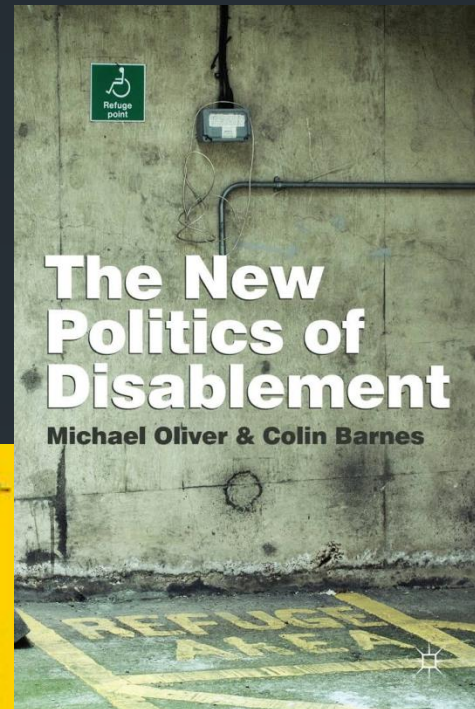   - 劉人鵬 （編） 2014 《抱殘守缺：21世紀殘障研究讀本》

Disability Studies	author(year)	Interpretation	disciplinary
殘障研究 /handicapped studies	呂心怡(2009) 劉人鵬(2014)	N/A	Anthropology, literature
障礙研究 disability studies	張恒豪(2007) 邱大昕(2007)	Critical on the term 殘障(handicapped) in Taiwan	Sociology
失能研究 disability studies	孫小玉(2011)	Critique on capitalism and ableism	Literaure

Taiwan Society for Disability Studies

- Founded in 2018
  - Book project 2010 (published 2012
  - Study group/translating book in 2016
    - Academic, students, grassroots DPOs
  - Study group II and III

Some findings

- Theoretical Reflections on disability studies in non-western context
- Post-colonial disability studies
  - Meekosha and Soldatic (2011)
    - Global north and south
    - modernization and colonialism
      - War, Poverty
      - Medical model in the south
  - Meyers（2014）
    - CRPD and top-down approach and DPO in Nicaragua
      - Legal language and local DPOs
      - Medical model
      - Lack of education in general, not inclusive education
    - Global Civil Society as Megaphone or Echo Chamber?: Voice in the International Disability Rights Movement

"Special" education for the blind in Taiwan

- Education for the disabled people in the "west"
  - Isolation, segregation, integration and inclusion
  - Pre-industrial, industrial and post-industrial
- Taiwan
  - Colonial legacy, Japanese colonial period (1895-1945)
    - Blind school in agricultural society
  - Post-WWII,
    - Inclusive education in industrial society
  - Chiu, Tasing (2014) Braille, Amma and Integration: The Hybrid Evolution of Education for the Blind in Taiwan, 1870s-1970s, *Paedagogica Historica* 50(1-2): 182-194.

From charity to rights?

- Politics of naming
- From "殘障"(handicapped) to 身心障礙者 (disabled people)
  - More charity, not "human rights"
  - Hegemony of charity

  - Chang, Heng-Hao and Jing-yi Wang. 2016. "From "Handicapped" to "Disabled": A Content Analysis of Disability Labels and Discourse in Taiwanese Newspapers." *Taiwanese Journal of Sociology*, 31: 1-41. (In Chinese)

Localization of ICF

- Bring social model to Taiwan or medicalized disability
  - More assessments by medical professionals, more time on assessment
  - No significant budget based on social model
  - Medicalization of disability by ICF?

Challenges

- Institutionalization or connecting to grassroots DPO ?
  - Institutionalization
    - Research center? Degree program? Or
  - Relationship between academic and DPOs/NGOs

- Localization of disability studies ?
  - From post-colonial critique to localized theories
  - Individualism, family and community
  - A East Asian Perspective Disability Studies
    - Policy implications
      - Deinstitutionalization
      - Legal capacity and guardianship

- Intersectionality
  - Gender, sexuality, class/labor, ethnicity

- Interdisciplinary
  - Dialogue with "traditional" disability field
  - Communication between different fields
  - Change of academic environment
    - Applied research, positivism
    - Publication requirement
    - Did not encourage Interdisciplinary work