
Peer counsellors' resistance to ability-centrism : a way for body emancipation

Eve Gardien^{*1}

¹Espaces et Sociétés (ESO) – Université de Rennes II - Haute Bretagne – France

Abstract

Main disability movements focus their political views on disability both in accessibility and human rights terms. Their main goal is social change. This is the reason why the body is almost forgotten but not always. An ethnographic survey of French peer counselling (since 2010 : direct observations, focus groups, interviews, collected records, peer counsellors' writings; a variety of areas and practices have been investigated) has revealed a specific approach on body engagement in ordinary life. This approach can be analysed in terms of body practices, disability compensation and body socialisation. Thus sociological analysis enables to forward an overarching concept: the ability-centrism.

Peer counsellors' approach concerning the body lead them to design novel body practices, based on experiential knowledge. This predominance of practical over academic knowledge enables to outline original ethics of body innovation.

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^{*}Speaker