



Wie fühlt sich Demokratie an: Soziologie in Zeiten der gesellschaftlichen Polarisierung

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Toward a Felt Politics of Ableism: Mapping the Emotional Contours of Disability Justice

Social movements communicate their desire to ‘overcome’ injustice, but they may overlook how oppression is rooted in ableist structures. Ableism refers to “the systematic, institutional devaluing of bodies and minds deemed deviant, abnormal, defective, subhuman, less than” (Brown, 2020). For disabled people moving through activist spaces, ableism is a structuring feature of life that can shape how they ‘feel’ the political. Drawing on social movement theory, intersectional disability studies, and the study of emotions and affects, this presentation examines ableism as a felt politics. I am interested in how social movements enact ableism, internally in their movement practices, and externally in how they frame broader struggles for social justice. How do their routine activities reflect normative ideas of an abled body and mind? How can movements advance social justice goals in ways that reflect multiple sources of oppression, including those grounded in ability?

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