

Disability Justice & Latino/a/e/x Culture in the Sex Ed Classroom

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For the University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD) at
the Oregon Health and Science University (OHSU)

Agenda

- Logistics & Overview
- Cultures in Classroom
- Models of Disability: Medical, Social
- Introduce Disability Justice
- Incorporating DJ into Sex Education

Learning Outcomes

By the end of the session participants will be able to:

- Identify ways to incorporate expansive understanding of culture into the classroom
- Incorporate Disability Justice approaches in sex ed classes

Essential Questions

- What are the cultures that are in my classroom?
- How does culture impact the way my students and I show up to be together?
- What disability justice principles may I incorporate into my sexuality education class?

Essential Understandings

- Culture is something we all have and bring with us wherever we go
- Culture is not only one experience, place, space, it is so much more!
- Disability culture exists and may be affirmed in the classroom
- Disability justice brings us closer to liberation and pleasure

Group Agreements

- Move Up / Move back
- Share from your own experience – please don't make statements about other people's experiences.
- Someone may say something you disagree with or doesn't sit well with you but we want to breathe into the uncomfortable feelings for 60 seconds before trying to articulate anything, **especially** if you come from a position of privilege relative to the topic.

Group Agreements

- Be mindful of differences and don't assume you know what someone else is experiencing.
- Respect personal sharing; what's said here, stays here. What's learned here, leaves here.
- Take care of yourself, take care of the group.

Access Check-In

Access check-ins allow for participants and facilitators to do a bodymind check / scan and acknowledge what they may need to stay present in the room. This process notes that each of us have a bodymind and that our bodyminds need attention and support which may change each day or hour.

A Note on Content

- This is only one of many sessions you will be needing throughout your career.
- This session is a brief review to Disability Justice principles and application.
- This is life-long work.
- This is only a part of what is possible!

A Note on Language

- Disabled People vs. People with Disabilities
- **Bodymind** = A phrase to remind us all that we cannot separate our bodies and minds. Our minds are part of our bodies and vice versa. This separation, which is required in a biomedical approach, is ableism in action. Asserting that our bodies and minds cannot be torn apart does not mean they are the same thing.

Definitions: Language & Disability

Disability Justice understands disability:

- As a lived embodied experience.
- As a political identity framed within ableism.
- As a community location from which to organize
- As a political location which overlaps, intersects and responds to other political locations such as race, gender, class, nation state, etc.
- As an aesthetic, from which we create practice and culture.

Terminology: Culture

Invitation: think about what your understanding of culture includes



Terminology: Culture

No single agreed upon definition. Often includes:

Shared attitudes, values, behaviors, language, rituals, knowledge, art, and beliefs of a group.



Terminology: Cultural Competence

A process to effectively operate and actively create approaches to meet the needs of various cultural groups to affirm they are enough and whole while seeking care and support.

GOAL:

- better outcomes
- people show up as they are

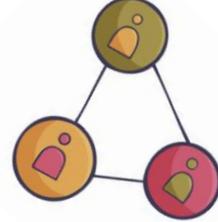
YOU ARE
ENOUGH

Terminology: Cultural Competence Requires

- Broadly define culture
- Self-awareness
- Collaboration with others / staff
- Learning encouraged
- Value client beliefs
- Language access
- Collaboration with community
- Action-oriented

Terminology: Cultural Relativism

Connecting with a community and culture on their own terms, not ours, especially if we are an outsider of the group.



Terminology: Cultural Relativism

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Example: Editing curricula to make examples relevant to community

Example: Affirming the experiences of those in the classroom and being open to correction and clarification

Cultural Relativism in Practice

Think about:

What are some ways you already do this in your classroom?



Terminology: Assimilation v Interdependence

Assimilation: Learning something new / giving up something (assimilation)

Multiple ways this emerges and is experienced.
Reason for why cultural competence exists, to embrace a range of experiences.

Terminology: Assimilation v Interdependence

Interdependence: collaboration / working together / accessibility (interdependence)

Core of cultural competence



Example: Assimilation v Interdependence

Language assimilation: spoken and nonverbal experiences

- “English only” often means spoken English
 - Non-verbal, Assistive Tech, ASL (American Sign Language)
- Nonverbal communication differs based on understanding of:
 - Social cues, consent, body autonomy, location

Terminology: Equity v Equality

Equality: all treated equally, but not all have equal access or outcome

Equity: people treated differently based on their needs to have the access and outcome they need (creating situational fairness)

Example: Equity v Equality

Equality: same support and assistance regardless of need or outcome

- Who is left out?
- Who is harmed?

Equity: support and assistance based on specific needs and outcome needed

- Who is left out?
- Who is harmed?



Models of Disability

MEDICAL MODEL



I invent and administer tests to classify disabled people according to what I think are their impairments. Then I carry out experiments to try to make them more like me.

Medical Model of Disability

1. Focus on diagnoses.
 2. Bodyminds are broken and in need of repair or cure.
 3. Medical providers are experts.
-
1. Pathologizes disabled people (questions parenting, pleasure, sexual functioning).

SOCIAL MODEL



I fight against prejudice, discrimination and disabling environments. I fight for equal rights legislation and better health and social care provision. I also fight to eliminate the poverty, abuse, violence and war that cause the majority of impairments.

Social Model of Disability

- Provides a shift in framework around possibilities for people with disabilities
- Focuses on rights to access
- Supports independent living
- Focuses on disabled people organizing, resisting, and changing laws
 - ADA 1990 signed, bipartisan
 - Expanded Civil Rights Act of 1964
 - Excluded HIV+ people until 2008 amendment

Social Model of Disability

- Identifies disability as primarily a social condition.
- Focuses on attitudes and barriers (physical, social, economic) that stop disabled people from fully participating.
- Introduces ableism.
- Asks: Is it **my body** that is the problem or is it the **social body**? i.e. What is debilitating?

Challenges of Social Model of Disability

Single issue identity based

- Leadership has historically centered white people with mobility impairments and excluded many disabled people i.e. autistic people.
- Framework leaves out other forms of oppression and the ways in which they are leveraged at differing times and purposes.
- Invisibilizes many people's' lives, intersectional stories.

Challenges of Social Model of Disability

Single issue identity based

- Centers / favors people who can achieve rights and access through a legal rights based framework
- Political strategy relied on litigation and the establishment of a disability bureaucratic sector over the development of a broad based movement

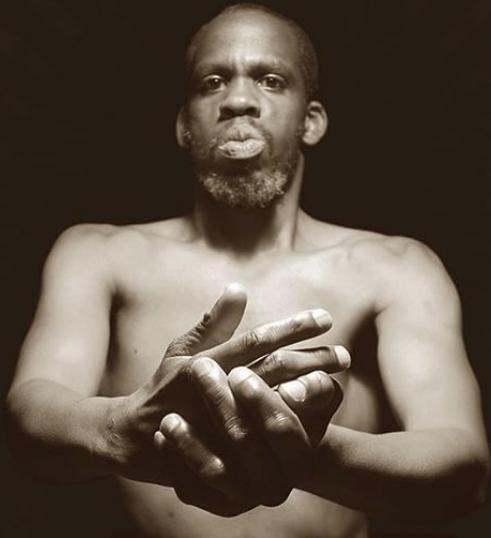
ALL BODIES ARE UNIQUE AND ESSENTIAL.

**ALL BODIES ARE WHOLE. ALL BODIES HAVE
STRENGTHS AND NEEDS THAT MUST BE MET.**

**WE ARE POWERFUL NOT DESPITE THE COMPLEXITIES
OF OUR BODIES, BUT BECAUSE OF THEM.**

WE MOVE TOGETHER, WITH NO BODY LEFT BEHIND.

THIS IS DISABILITY JUSTICE.



Justice Model of Disability

- Centers disabled people who are multiply marginalized
- Includes all who self-identify as disabled
- Includes our bodyminds as sources of power, pleasure or oppression
- Centralizes a praxis of aligning our communities, organizations & lives along DJ commitments

10 Principles of Disability Justice

<https://www.sinsinvalid.org/blog/10-principles-of-disability-justice>

1. Intersectionality
2. Leadership of those most impacted
3. Anti-Capitalist
4. Cross-Movement Organizing
5. Wholeness
6. Sustainability
7. Cross-Disability Solidarity
8. Interdependence
9. Collective Access
10. Collective Liberation

Implementation: How do I do this?

- **Move at the pace of the slowest person, moving together**
- **Give yourself permission to NOT meet all the requirements sometimes the entire semester is on consent in everyday lives not just sex and relationships (i.e. putting on socks, asking for help, asking for refill at restaurants, etc.)**

Implementation: How do I do this?

- Get creative with how to receive feedback
- Be intentional about the language we use
 - Avoid deficit based language
 - Avoid language that is focusing on tragedy
 - Avoid language that focuses on limitations
 - **GOAL:** avoid ableism and reinforcing it in classroom

Ableist Language

- **deficit** (e.g., “her arm is *missing*”, “he is really *overcoming* his disability”)
- **limiting** (e.g., “they are *confined* to a wheelchair”)
- **tragic** (e.g., “he *suffers* from cerebral palsy”).

Ableist Language

- Wheelchair bound
- Crazy
- Lame
- Crutch
- Tone Deaf
- Falling on deaf ears
- Blindspot
- Bed ridden
- Special needs

Use Instead

- Wheelchair user
- Wild, exciting, strange
- Boring, bland
- Support
- Oblivious
- No one is listening
- I don't know
- Bed life
- Cognitive differences

Disabled & Sex Ed Latino/a/e/x Content

Andrea Lausell <https://www.youtube.com/andrealausell>

Scenarios USA films on YouTube channel:
<https://www.youtube.com/@scenariosusa/videos>

- From An Objective POV
- Toothpaste
- Man In The Mirror
- The Tale of Timmy Two Chins
- Speechless

Disabled & Sex Ed Latino/a/e/x Content

Superfest Disability Film Festival Oct 19-22 online

<http://www.superfestfilm.com/2023-films>

- **Moi si j'étais une Femme / Me If I Were A Woman**
- **Was Wir Wollen / Of Kisses and Capes**
- **Take Me Home**
- **We Care**
- **As You Are**



Remember!
We are
in this
TOGETHER!

