



FRONTIERS OF HUMANITY AND BEYOND

TOWARDS NEW CRITICAL
UNDERSTANDINGS OF BORDERS

P17 - THE OTHERNESS OF OTHERS: AN INTERDISCIPLINARY AND INTERSECTIONALITY APPROACH ON DISABILITY IDENTITY

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ABSTRACT

The idea of “otherness” is central to critical analyses of how human boundaries are social constructed. This is because the representation of minority groups in society is controlled by majority groups that have greater political power, based on hierarchy relationships of superiority vs inferiority. Since the XXI century, greater understanding of disability and the importance of interpreting its social and cultural history as begun to push this subject beyond medical and rehabilitation issues into more accurate social identities categorization question. Disabled people have forged a group identity focused on a positive self-image and pride on its otherness. This disability identity is defined through the interaction between the normality and human diversity, fostering essential knowledge about the legacies, trajectories, languages and contexts, as well as linking experiences of marginality, oppression and social exclusion. Also, it has focused on issues of intersection and transversality directly linking disability to other categories of otherness and social minorities, such as gender, ethnicity and sexuality.

This panel intends to reflect about the instituted forms of thinking about disability established by social and cultural frontiers throughout history by archaeology, anthropology, art history, cultural history, ethnography, literary studies, philosophy, religious studies and social communication. It will deeply think about how the normative representations of disability have contributed to building up boundaries between disabled and no-disabled people, proposing new multi and interdisciplinary forms to problematize negative insights produced about disability as well as counteract the lack of public and academic debate on this subject.

Patrícia Roque Martins is an Integrated Researcher at CITCEM - Transdisciplinary Research Center "Culture, Space and Memory", University of Porto, developing the postdoctoral project "Representations of Disability in Museums Collections of the Directorate-General for Cultural Heritage (DGPC), funded by the FCT - Foundation for Science and Technology. PhD in Fine Arts, specialising in Museology (2015), Master in Museology and Museography (2008) and degree in Art History (2001) by the University of Lisbon. She was a guest speaker and keynote speaker at several scientific events in Portugal and abroad. She published the book "Museums (In) Capacitantes" (DGPC-Caleidoscópico, 2017), as well as several book chapters (in Portuguese, English and German) and articles in the specialty in international journals with peer review. She is a member of the The Inclusive Museum Research Network and the Europeana Network Association.