

Barriers and Belonging: Personal Narratives of Disability



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What is the direct impact that disability studies has on the lives of disabled people today? The editors and contributors to this essential anthology, *Barriers and Belonging*, provide thirty-seven personal narratives that explore what it means to be disabled and why the field of disability studies matters.

The editors frame the volume by introducing foundational themes of disability studies. They provide a context of how institutions—including the family, schools, government, and disability peer organizations—shape and transform ideas about disability. They explore how disability informs personal identity, interpersonal and community relationships, and political commitments. In addition, there are heartfelt reflections on living with mobility disabilities, blindness, deafness, pain, autism, psychological disabilities, and other issues. Other essays articulate activist and pride orientations toward disability, demonstrating the importance of reframing traditional narratives of sorrow and medicalization.

The critical, self-reflective essays in *Barriers and Belonging* provide unique insights into the range and complexity of disability experience.

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