Being Blind & Belonging

LAURA YVONNE BULK & MARILYN SMITH
A portal exploring PERCEPTION & REALITY
“It would be great to showcase different people who are living life without vision, but still living very full lives.”

Leela
“People will be curious about what blindness is... but they just don’t know enough about it to interact with a blind person.”

*Sandra*
Being Blind Portal

Experience: Photojournalistic Storytelling

Knowledge: Blogs featuring research, tips for building building skills, technological advancements

Interaction via comments, questions, etc.

The Portal will give information to support actions that may improve legal, political & social circumstances, etc.

Contributors include

◦ Blind people & our support networks
◦ Researchers and professionals
◦ The public who will be able to ask questions & interact.
EXPERIENCE

PHOTOJOURNALISTIC PROFILES
PARTICIPATORY COMMUNITY CONTRIBUTIONS
Emancipatory

- Participation PLUS
- Aim of emancipation: liberation from structures and processes that disempower and constrain
- Aim of empowerment: the freedom of a community to make and act upon choices

Bricher, 2000; Duckett & Pratt, 2007; French & Swain, 1997; Hammell, 2016
Justice & human rights

• Access to all aspects of the research process is itself a social justice issue

• Universally endorsed human rights:
  1. freedom to decide
  2. equity of opportunity
  3. dignity of the person

Kallen, 2004; Ramcharan & Grant, 1994
KNOWLEDGE

RESEARCH & INFORMATION SHARING
Research Highlighting experiences in diverse contexts how we defy stereotypes stigmas & assumptions that get in our way technological advances that impact our lives
Blind Belonging in Academia
A Closer Look
Opportunities & Stigmatization
Seeing Blindness Survey

A blind person can...
... perform minor home repairs.
... cross a busy street on their own.
... play hockey.

Having a blind person
... to my home
... babysit my children
Could a blind person have a job? ... maybe
Could a blind person do your job? ... no!
Can blind people babysit? ... maybe
Could a blind person babysit your kids? ... maybe not

Who estimates higher capability for blind people?
  ◦ People who identified as having a disability
  ◦ People who identified as non-heterosexual
  ◦ People who know a blind person
If you could ask a blind person one question, what would it be?

Responses from blind people in a video...

seeingblindness.tumblr.com
A New pair of lenses
Contact Us!

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#blindbelonging

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