

Recommended Reading: Disability History and Philosophy

Excerpted from the IL-Net Wiki, ILRU, June 2015

- *My Body Politic: A Memoir*. Simi Linton; University of Michigan Press; 2007; 256 pages. This autobiography is a highly rated, witty, personal and passionate discussion of one woman's journey from the 1960's counterculture to disability activism. It is filled with adventure, celebration, rock and roll, and an argument for seeing disability as a social, rather than a medical, construct.
- *Disability and History (Radical History Review)*. Teresa Meade; Duke University Press; 2006; 267 pages. This special issue of *Radical History Review* combines disability studies with radical history approaches. It discloses how the ways that disability is defined may expose the biases of a given historical moment. Archival research and other primary materials from a number of contributors are used to explore how historical forces and cultural contexts have produced disability as a shifting and socially constructed concept.
- *The Disability Studies Reader (2nd Edition)*. Lennard J. Davis; Routledge: New York; 2006; 472 pages. This comprehensive updated collection of essays from experts in cultural studies, literary criticism, sociology, biology, the visual arts, and post-colonial studies, offers a broad exploration of disability in the context of social sciences and humanities, with new information on genetic testing, the human genome, and issues in developing countries.
- *Disability Rights and Wrongs*. Tom Shakespeare; Routledge: New York; 2006; 232 pages. The author presents a stimulating and provocative analysis of the key issues in disability studies. Care, charity and independent living are examined, with an argument for the importance of intimacy and solidarity in the lives of people with disabilities.
- *Everyday Law for Individuals with Disabilities*. Ruth Colker, & Adam A. Milani; Paradigm Publishers: Boulder, CO; 2005; 288 pages. This book, written by two disability law experts, provides a guide to discrimination law and the legal rights of people with disabilities. Practical solutions to discrimination are offered that are more practical and less expensive than a lawsuit. Comprehensive local and national listings of agencies and advocacy organizations are included.
- *Federal Disability Law in a Nutshell (3rd Edition)*. Bonnie Poitras Tucker & Adam A. Milani; West: St. Paul, MN; 2004; 536 pages. The authors discuss major federal disability laws with an emphasis on statutes, regulations, procedural law, and the ADA. The book includes the definition of disability, the Rehabilitation Act of 1973, IDEA, employment discrimination, housing, education, and transportation.
- *Voices from the Edge: Narratives about the Americans with Disabilities Act*. Ruth O'Brien; Oxford University Press: New York; 2003; 312 pages. The author describes the many types of discrimination individuals with disabilities face in the U.S., a detailed overview of disability rights law, and the personal stakes underlying legal disputes over the ADA. This collection offers unparalleled insight into the lives behind the law through an interesting series of personal accounts.
- *Make Them Go Away: Clint Eastwood, Christopher Reeve and the Case against Disability Rights*. Mary Johnson; Advocado Press, Inc.: Louisville, KY; 2003; 296 pages. This book critiques how society views disability and examines the numerous flaws in disability law. She discusses how the ADA lets

employers off the hook through undue hardship, and that the law is only enforceable via lawsuit, which places people in an adversarial position. The author strongly advocates for full inclusion.

- **Why I Burned My Book.** Paul Longmore; Temple University Press: Philadelphia, PA; 2003; 296 pages. The author is a respected historian, educator and activist with a physical disability. He has compiled historical and philosophical essays on the history of disability rights that demonstrate how systemic prejudice and institutional discrimination shape the lives of Americans with disabilities.
- **Disabled Rights: American Disability Policy and the Fight for Equality.** Jacqueline Vaughn Switzer; Georgetown University Press: Washington, DC; 2003; 318 pages. This book provides an overview of U.S. disability policy in all facets of society, with a discussion of the impact of disability programs and laws that have been enacted in the past fifty years. The author raises questions about Congressional intent in passing the ADA, the evolution of the disability rights movement, and the current status of people with disabilities.
- **Rights of Inclusion: Law and Identity in the Life Stories of Americans with Disabilities.** David M. Engel & Frank W. Munger; University Of Chicago Press: Chicago, IL; 2003; 272 pages. This work is based on interviews with people with disabilities and provides an innovative perspective of how civil rights legislation affects the lives of ordinary Americans. It calls for a new understanding of rights that focuses on their role in everyday lives, rather than in formal legal claims.
- **From Good Will to Civil Rights: Transforming Federal Disability Policy (2nd Edition).** Richard K. Scotch; Temple University Press: Philadelphia, PA; 2001; 240 pages. Through interviews with policymakers, leaders of the disability rights movement, and other advocates, this book discusses the sweeping changes that took place in public policy and suggests the struggle is not yet over. It traces the history and discusses the future of Section 504 of the Rehab Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act.
- **The New Disability History: American Perspectives.** Paul K. Longmore & Lauri Umansky (Editors); New York University Press: New York; 2001; 422 pages. This thoughtful, scholarly collection of essays on sign language, veterans, Helen Keller, photography, the history of government disability policy, inequality, and more, from fourteen academics representing a variety of disciplines explores disability in historical, social, and cultural contexts.
- **To Ride the Public's Buses: The Fight That Built a Movement.** Mary Johnson & Barrett Shaw (Editors); Advocado Press, Inc.: Louisville, KY; 2001. The authors compiled an anthology of articles about the bus battle that appeared in the pages of *The Disability Rag* from 1983-1990. This work chronicles the push by activists to gain access to public bus systems through their grassroots efforts.
- **Nothing About Us Without Us: Disability Oppression and Empowerment.** James I. Charlton; University of California Press: Berkeley, CA; 2000; 213 pages. The author is the executive vice president of Chicago's Access Living, one of the largest Centers for Independent Living in the U.S. Interviews with fifty disability rights activists around the world provide personal stories of empowerment, as well as the history, political philosophy and theoretical overview of the disability rights movement.
- **Disability Rights Movement.** Doris Fleischer; Temple University Press: Philadelphia, PA; 2000; 278 pages. This book is based on interviews with close to 100 activists. It provides a detailed history of the struggle for disability rights in the U.S. Multiple aspects of disability and the social context of disability rights are explored, from Franklin Roosevelt to the present.

- No Pity: People with Disabilities Forging a New Civil Rights Movement. Joseph P. Shapiro; Three Rivers Press: New York; 1994. This interesting, informative and well-researched book written by an experienced journalist chronicles attitudes, prejudice, political and social issues and the disability rights movement from the seventeenth century to the passage of the ADA through many personal stories, statistics, quotes and facts.
- A People's History of the Independent Living Movement. Chava Willig Levy; The Research and Training Center on Independent Living, University of Kansas: Lawrence, KS; 1988; 24 pages. Available online at: <http://www.rtcil.org/products/index.shtml>. This monograph discusses the history of the IL movement from 1954 when Mary Switzer was appointed Director of the Office of VR through the late 1980's. Actions by Gini Laurie, Ed Roberts, Judy Heumann, Denise McQuade, ADAPT, Gerben DeJong, Mary Johnson, Marca Bristo, Michael Winter, Justin Dart and Gallaudet students are included.