

Celebrating the International Day of Persons with Disabilities

Long Room Hub, TCD
2 December 2011

Time to reflect: A Career in Disability Research

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Thanksgiving

Harvest

Gather together

Being thankful

People reflect on a
sense of place, their
own capacities



On reflection: A place for disability in the university

Not so long ago

Where we stand today

Shaping the future



Student choir
Gallaudet University
Washington DC

Not so long ago...



courses about disability
targeted health
professionals

‘defectology’ was the
dominant model of
disability in many
countries of central and
eastern Europe

history, narratives,
comparative and
interdisciplinary studies
had yet to emerge

**Late 19th Century view of Work House and
House of Correction (1873)
Howard Avenue, Cranston, Rhode Island, USA**



Institutional history of disability 19th century

Residential schools for deaf and blind students

Schools for students with physical disabilities later

Segregated workshops common in Europe

Perkins Institute for the Blind (1832)

Growth of psychiatric institutions in the
USA from 1850-1910

Syracuse Institution was purpose-built
for people with intellectual disabilities
(1855)



Residential institution North Co Dublin



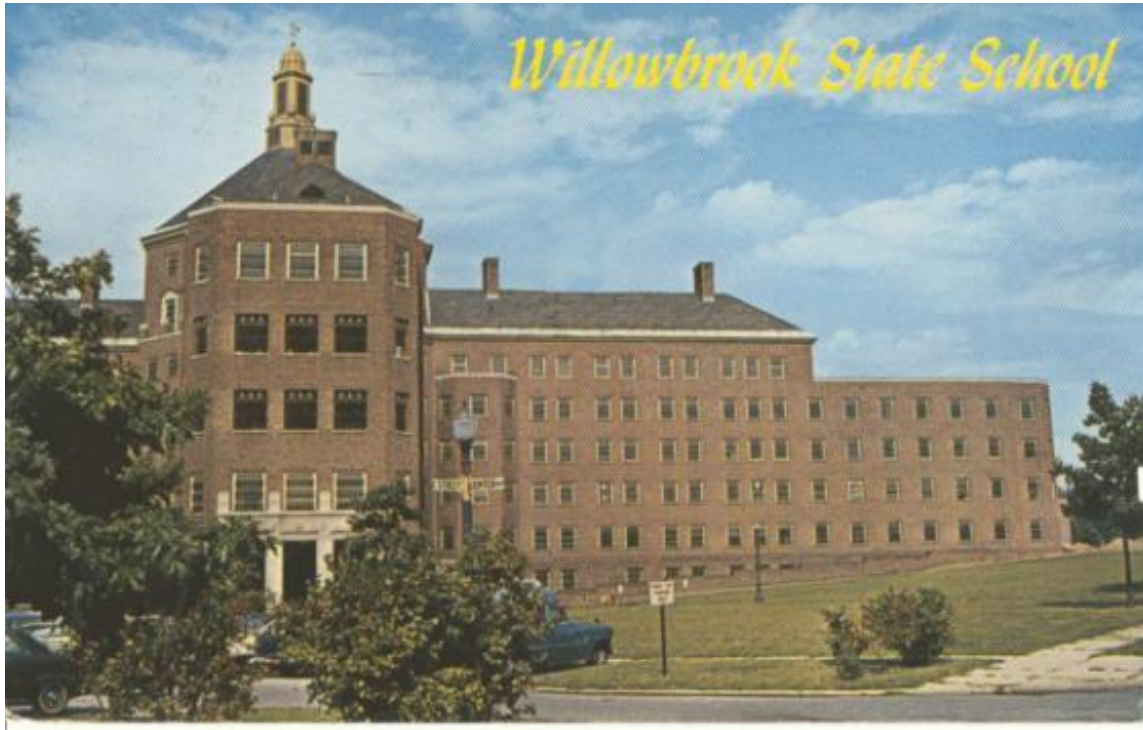
St. Ita's Hospital, Portrane, is in north County Dublin. It was the third phase of asylum building, which ...

"culminated in the 1890s in the building of the auxiliary asylum to the Richmond at Portrane, Co Dublin, the largest capital project ever undertaken by the colonial administration in Ireland".

Today, the institution is divided into two units: one for people with intellectual disabilities, and another for people with psychiatric conditions.

Willowbrook

Staten Island, New York City

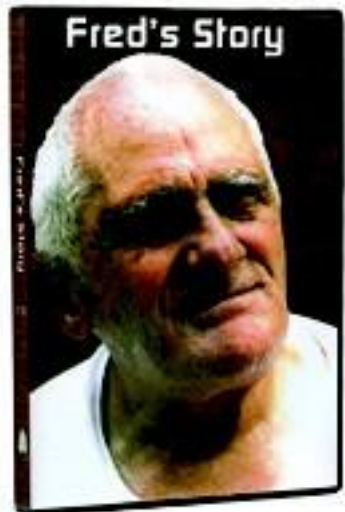


By 1965, with over 6,000 residents in an institution planned for just 4,000, Senator Robert Kennedy was calling Willowbrook a 'snake pit'. In January 1972, Geraldo Rivera, a reporter, began a series of programs that shook the conscience of New York State and the nation and inspired parents and others to take legal action. The end result was the signing of a consent judgment in federal court in 1975.

The school closed in 1987.

Connecticut, USA

Mansfield Training School and Hospital was a state facility for people with intellectual disabilities that was active from 1860 to 1993.



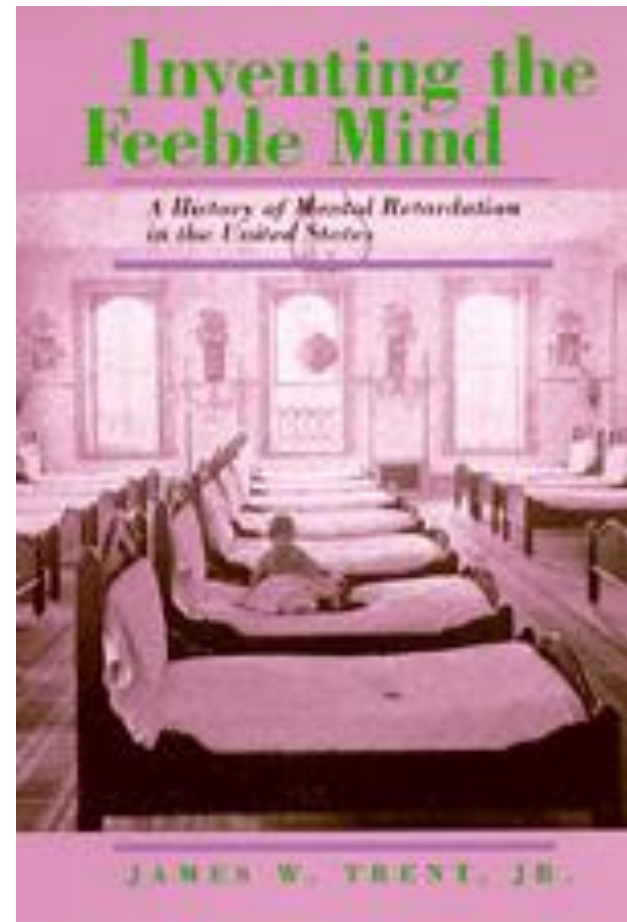
New thinking, new approaches from late-20th century

Institutions close

Law and policy strengthen
to support participation
of people with
disabilities

Human rights

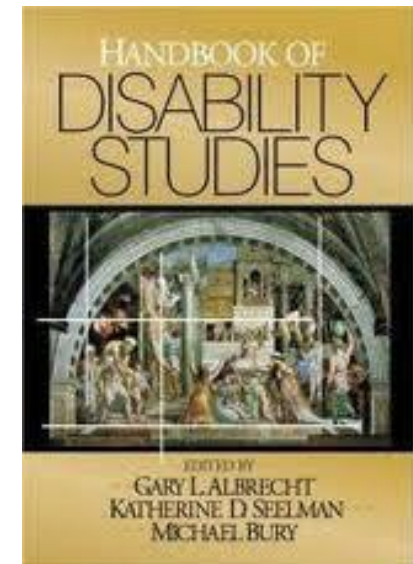
University programmes
established throughout
the United States



An emerging field



Disability Studies Quarterly
the first journal in the field of disability studies



Today

Looking for a competitive edge?

Get a Disability
Studies Certificate!



The University of Georgia
Institute on Human Development and Disability



NUI Certificate in Disability Studies



NUI MAYNOOTH

Ollscoil na hÉireann Má Nuad

Department of Adult and
Community Education
National University of Ireland,
Maynooth

Certificate/Diploma

Duration: 2 years - Option to exit after First Year with a Certificate

Venue: University College Cork Main Campus and Outreach Centres - one night a week for three hours

NFQ Level: Cert - 6 / Dip - 7 - Award Type Special Purpose

PhD in Disability Studies

University of Illinois at Chicago

Disability studies try to answer such questions as, "What is disability, and who is disabled?" It looks beyond the conventional idea of disability as a measurable flaw inside people's bodies or minds, and it examines the complex way that society classifies and interacts with people who function differently from the "norm." Students conduct research across social, cultural, clinical, ethical, and policy perspectives.

The program also examines how addressing disability in all of its dimensions can promote the full participation, self-determination, and equal citizenship of people with disabilities in society.

The interdisciplinary PhD Program in Disability Studies at UIC is the **first PhD in the United States** dedicated to the burgeoning field of disability studies and is one of only a few such programs in the world.



Looking ahead: What is the place of disability in the university?



NUI Galway
OÉ Gaillimh



UC Berkeley launches groundbreaking disability research initiative



The University of California, Berkeley — viewed by many as the birthplace of the disability rights movement — today (Wednesday, May 11) announced plans for a sweeping new research initiative that will make the university a worldwide leader in disability studies.

UC Berkeley will create two new faculty positions, including an endowed faculty chair funded by a gift from Colleen and Robert D. Haas, to galvanize and lead the multidisciplinary initiative.

Ten faculty members from eight campus units will collaborate on research related to disability, with topics including how people define and respond to disability and the critical areas of technology, education and employment.

“The only way to address disability issues is holistically,” said Michael Dear, professor of City and Regional Planning in the College of Environmental Design .

Transfer Knowledge

How to translate research findings into practice and policy?

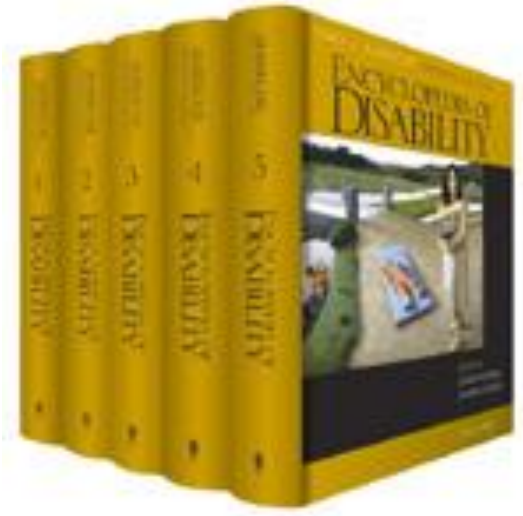
dissemination of materials, events

ongoing **collaboration**

advice for government policy makers

tomorrow's researchers: today's research **students**

community readiness and also university focus, placing value on what community has to contribute: **reciprocal** transfer



Collaborate across disciplines



Build positive outcomes

We need to gather data that permit comparisons between people with disabilities and others in terms of their education, employment, income, civic engagement, health and other domains.



Gather comparative evidence

People with disabilities in the United States have -

- Higher rates of chronic conditions – diabetes, depression, elevated blood pressure, obesity, tooth loss, vision and hearing impairments
- Less health insurance and use of the health-care system
- Lower rates of social participation
- Lower rates of recommended health behaviours



From: *Healthy People 2010: CDC*

Keep good company



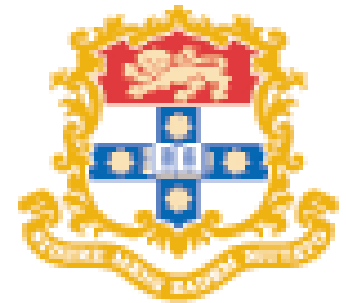
THE
UNIVERSITY
OF RHODE ISLAND



HÁSKÓLINN Í REYKJAVÍK
REYKJAVIK UNIVERSITY



VNiVERSiDAD
D SALAMANCA



The University of Sydney



UNIVERSITY OF LEEDS

University of
Kent

Syracuse University – School of Education

Disability Studies applies social, cultural, historical, and philosophical perspectives to the study of disability in society. Building on the tradition of Syracuse University's School of Education in the area of disability, the program is designed to help students understand and work to overcome the barriers to full participation of people with disabilities in the community and society. Consistent with the Syracuse tradition, this program stands at the forefront of change and new ways of thinking about and accommodating people with disabilities.



Yale University

Interdisciplinary Center for Bioethics

Disability Interest Group



Our collective journey...



President Mary McAleese invited people with disabilities, family members, advocates, health and social care professionals, service providers, experts and academics to Áras an Uachtaráin on 19th June 2008 to further an

...‘ongoing national debate around disability and our collective journey as a people towards being a place where every single person can, without unnecessary difficulty, realise their full potential’.



Address on 19 June 2008

What a culture is willing to give

The Chairman of the Forum hosted by President McAleese, Dr Michael Schwartz of Syracuse University, recalled that the *Americans with Disabilities Act* was passed in 1990 and yet still access is not universally guaranteed. But, as he cautioned, '*...the law cannot guarantee what a culture is not willing to give...*' and people's needs stretch beyond compliance with the law.



19 June 2008



If the university helps to inform the culture of which it is a part, it follows that the university is exactly where we must place the study of all aspects of disability.



A life like any other

