Call For Submissions: Knots Issue # 4
Deadline: January 15th, 2018

The Equity Studies program, New College, University of Toronto, invites submissions for the next issue of Knots: An Undergraduate Journal of Disability Studies. Knots is a peer-reviewed journal that highlights high-calibre work by undergraduate students and undergraduate alumni, work that moves beyond normative biomedical conceptions of disability and contributes to the development and growth of Disability Studies as a field. The editors are open to the widest array of topics that contribute to Disability Studies and to the continued examination and deconstruction of ableism. Submissions in the forms of essays, creative writing, book and film reviews, and art pieces are welcome. Submissions are not limited to students from the University of Toronto.

“History is full of people who just didn’t. They said no thank you, turned away, ran away to the desert, stood on the streets in rags, lived in barrels, burned down their own houses, walked barefoot through town, killed their rapists, pushed away dinner, meditated into the light.” - Anne Boyer

The theme for the fourth issue of Knots is refusal. Disability Studies always necessarily performs refusal by adamantly rejecting ableist narratives that see disability as only and always a problem in need of a solution. At the same time, we recognize that disability studies itself has its own dominant discourses, and we are likewise interested in critical refusals of inclusion and the social model.

According to anthropologist Carole McGranahan, refusal is much more than saying no: “To refuse can be generative and strategic, a deliberate move toward one thing, belief, practice, or community and away from another. Refusals illuminate limits and possibilities, especially but not only of the state and other institutions.” What alternative worlds, futures, and landscapes are created when refusal is enacted? Who has access to refusal, and for whom is refusal dangerous?

We invite a capacious understanding of our theme, and are looking for submissions that interrogate, reinterpret, animate and subvert what it means to say no.

Possible areas of emphasis include, but are not limited to:
- Refusal and/as relationality
- Refusing diagnoses and/or cure
- Refusal and consent
- intersectional analyses of sexuality/gender/class/race & disability
- crip community, activism, and disability rights
- Allyship, coalition-building, and critical solidarity practices
- normalcy and cure
- disability in local and global contexts
- Decolonial analyses of disability
- eugenics, disability and mad people’s history;
- representations in pop culture; representation and/or expression through the arts;
- Crip investigations of science and technology
- disability and affect/emotion
If you would like to submit, but feel your work does not fit our theme, you are welcome to submit anyway. **We strongly encourage all submissions to use an intersectional analysis.**

**Requirements and Reviewing:** Submissions should be original and unpublished. Essays should be 4500 words maximum, excluding bibliography; book and film reviews should be 1000 words maximum; art pieces should be accompanied by an artist’s statement not in excess of 500 words. All submissions will be anonymously peer reviewed by a jury of undergraduate students.

**Style and process:** Manuscripts should be fully and correctly cited in APA style. Submissions will be evaluated on both significance and relevance to the field of Disability Studies as well as technical strength and clarity, and should be accompanied by a 100-word abstract and a short author bio. Submitted work will be subject to peer-review; successfully reviewed entries will be returned to submitters for revisions before being approved for publication. Once the editorial period has come to a close, we will not accept any changes to an accepted paper.

**Submission Procedure & Information:** The submission process is electronic: all manuscript submissions can be made online to knots.contact@gmail.com by no later than January 15th, 2018. The author’s name and the title of work both should appear in the subject line of the email; the full manuscript should be attached as a PDF file to the editors. Any questions regarding content, submission, or accessibility requests should be directed to knots.contact@gmail.com. We look forward to receiving your submissions and together producing Knots Issue #4!

**Call for Members of the Knots Editorial Board**

We are also seeking peer reviewers for our editorial board! If you are an undergraduate student and you have taken or are enrolled in a disability studies course, or have engaged significantly with disability studies in another course, and are interested in peer reviewing for Knots, please send us an email at knots.contat@gmail.com by February 1st, 2018.

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