



INVISIBLE BARRIERS: WOMEN AND THE ABSENCE OF ACCESSIBILITY

A Zine by Janis Wong

Zine: a homemade/online publication devoted to specialised and often unconventional subject matter

What is disability?
- a complex and diverse concept that encompasses a wide range of conditions, impairments, or limitations that affect a person's physical, sensory, cognitive, or mental abilities.

MISCONCEPTIONS OF DISABILITY!!

- All disabilities are visible
- People with disabilities are unable to work
- Disabilities define a person's capabilities
- People with disabilities are ALWAYS in need of help

DISABLED IS NOT A BAD WORD

SPECIAL NEEDS DIFFERENTLY ABLED HANDI-CAPABLE

NEURODIVERSE VARIABLE NEEDS MANIFEST

health care, health insurance, pay equality, child care, violence, Against Women, choice

“DISABLED” VS. “CRIPPLED”

The creative piece is a handmade zine that focuses on the topic of **absence and invisibility of accessibility representation for disabled women** - it aims to critique the prevailing, existing systems of knowledge on such an important topic, which has previously only briefly shed light on the idea of a lack of accessible facilities, but not the **nuanced experiences of women** in this population. As I delved into the project, I encountered a lack of existing material and representation on the subject.

What's Missing

DESIGN FLAWS: oversight of accessible entrance perpetuates exclusion → missing participation and engagement

Your needs begin to **AND NEVER COME** replace your wants.

INVISIBILITY

Nobody knows better than Hi-Tec how important comfort, durability, and stability are when you're out there enjoying your latest adventure.

advertisements for hiking boots, "enjoying your latest adventure" → ignored and diminished face of disabled people can have adventures as well

WHERE ARE THE SIGNS?
symbol of disability is a person in a wheelchair → diversity??

RAMP? absence of accessibility features on public transportation not operators covered nor talked about

Where's the representation of women?

absence of invisible disabilities representation, often only thinking about disability as a physical condition that may not be visible to the naked eye → plans of thinking from a more diverse perspective

Waking footwear: advertisement "our there and beyond" → who are these shoes designed for? do they fit & accommodate population of #individuals?

WHAT'S MISSING?

- Invisible/hidden disabilities representation
 - Accessible entrances
- *Many traditional research emphasises numerical statistics rather than personal narratives - stories of feminism and intersectionality played a pivotal role in guiding the content for the zine.

“OTHERNESS”

The zine opts for a more visual appeal, using graphic text and photograph snippets from magazines; **servng as powerful tools** to convey raw emotions that stem from a group of marginalized individuals. The piece aims to **bridge the gap** between the audience and the observed group, in an attempt to draw audience into direct contact with the intimate realities faced by these women on a daily basis.

ADDITIONAL CATEGORIES OF "OTHERNESS"

as an additional category of "otherness", signifies and demonstrates a facet of diversity that is often overlooked.

Yes, We Are Talking Rocket Science Here.

Women were again being told that our **suffering** was trivial or even **unreal**.

3%! !

a shockingly small percentage of representation of persons with disabilities → women as a pre-existing marginalized group

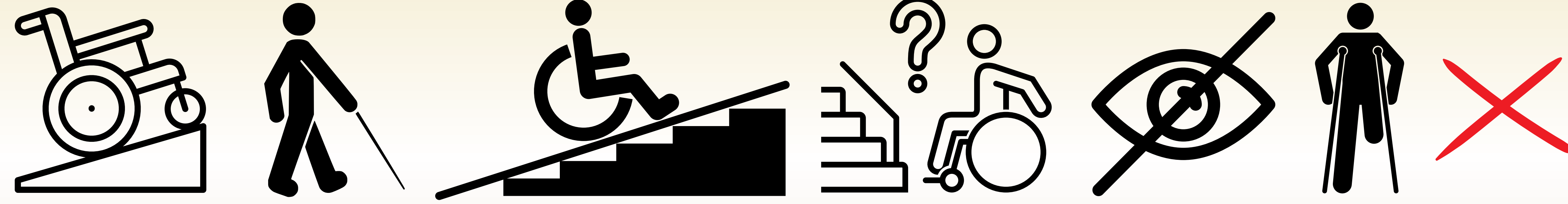
AGE 7%
BISEXUAL 8%
DELIBATE 5%
CLASS 9%
DISABILITY 3%
JEWISH 8%
LESBIAN/GAY 18%
MUSLIM <1%
NATIONAL ORIGIN 15%
OTHER RELIGION 15%
WEIGHT 11%

A driver-side air bag is standard equipment on all 1993 Corollas.

Plenty of room inside. 122.5 cubic feet to be exact. Enough space for a family of five, and all their gear.

A world designed for men (weight, weight, structure, etc.)

As a tool of social control, women have been encouraged to recognize only one area of human difference as legitimate, those differences that exist between women and men.



FUTURE COURSE OF ACTION: BUILDING BRIDGES

Transcending the boundaries of conventional research methodologies, building bridges (both architectural and human) serve as catalysts for advocacy in enacting change.

A Tale of Two Species

THE FUTURE WE WANT

Beyond Stereotyping

IT'S MY BODY AND IT DOES INCREDIBLE THINGS.

BUILDING BRIDGES

creating a future where "abled" and "disabled" as two species that are able to come together in union to embrace diversity

creating a world free of judgment and stereotyping, a world where everyone's voice is heard

Everyone can make a difference. But it takes a certain "can-do" spirit to push forward, defy convention, and change the world for all who follow.

bridging bridges (both architectural and human) to collectively advocate for a more inclusive, equal society where everyone's voice is heard the same

AMPLIFYING THE VOICES OF WOMEN WORLDWIDE.

Why Are We Fighting? *redefining social norms and discourse phrases*

Redefining "Acceptable"

Hear my story and I will hear yours.

WOMEN'S VOICES NEED TO BE HEARD

listening and educating ourselves of the lived experiences of marginalized women

together, hands raised, we can come together to create and enact great change for marginalized groups, women and persons with disabilities

I would like to extend my sincere gratitude to Professor Connie Guberman, who presented insightful concepts in the Understanding Power and Knowledge in Research course (WSTB05) and inspired my ideas. Additionally, I would like to thank Artist Jessica Thalmann for sharing her extensive knowledge on zine-making, which was key for the execution of this project.