Crip *Imaginaries:* Future Building Through Kinship

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Overview

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Introduction

- This project highlights the imaginative ways that disabled people utilize and build relationships around technology.

- These relationships are intricately tied to collective world-making practices that envision a crip futurity that defies normative temporal logics—those which render disabled futures incomprehensible.

- The Remote Access Archive is utilized as a case to explore how disabled people collectively imagine disabled futures through both archival and technological practices.

Problem Statment

Technology is often framed as a mechanism to "cure" aspects of disability. Disability studies scholars argue that the temporal logics underlying ideologies of cure are remnants of racist and ableist conceptualizations of nature, perfectibility, and normalcy (Clare, 2017; Ginsburg & Rapp, 2015). Ideologies of cure (Clare, 2017) are also in contrast to the actual experiences of disabled people using technology as a means to collectively build relationships and futures. The Remote Access Archive documents and preserves these experiences.

Objectives

- To understand how disabled peoples' technological practices lead towards liberatory engagements of enacting alternative temporalities that "imagin[e] a time and place for disability and difference"*

- Apply & connect theories from critical disability studies to studies of technology within Information Science

Sources: Rice, C., Chandler, E., Rinaldi, J., Changfoot, N., Liddiard, K., Mykitiuk, R., & Mündel, I. (2017). Imagining disability futurities. *Hypatia, 32*(2), 213–229.

Clare, E. (2017) Brilliant imperfection: Grappling with cure. Duke University Press.

Ginsburg, F., & Rapp, R. (2015). "Not Dead Yet": Changing Disability Imaginaries in the Twenty-First Century. In *Living and Dying in the Contemporary World* (pp. 525–541). University of California Press.

Theoretical Frameworks

Curative Imaginaries

Dis-topia

- **Curative imaginaries** is an understanding of disability that not only expects but also assumes intervention. It can not imagine anything but a cure

- **Dis-topia** is the collective imagination of futurity that reveals possibilities for new collectivities and political formations. The concept challenges ideologies of cure that are premised on a "utopia" based on the foreclosure of disability.

- Disabled people's dis-topic engagements with technology can be understood as means to interrogate curative imaginaries.

Case Study

When technology scholars speak about technology related to disability its often related to curing disability. This is in contrast to the actual experiences of disabled people using technology as a means to build relationships and build futures.
Remote Access Archive documents and preserves these experiences.

Next Steps

Research Design and Methods	• Conduct case study of Remote Access Archive and analyze disabled activist's tweets using Critical Technocultural Discourse Analysis (CTDA) methods*
Research Instruments	• Qualitative content analysis (CTDA and thematic analysis methods)
Data Gathering	• Utilize Twitter's API to gather tweets from disabled activists that concern the impact of the Covid–19 pandemic and the meanings of remote access
Data Analysis	• Inductive thematic analysis and CTDA to analyze tweets and archival data

Source: Brock, A. (2018). Critical technocultural discourse analysis. *New Media & Society, 20*(3), 1012–1030.

Q&A

Thank you for listening!