

Literary and Cultural Disability Studies: An Exploration
Prof. Hemachandran Karah
Department of Humanities and Social Sciences
Indian Institute of Technology - Madras

Lecture – 6
Introduction to Module 2 – Disability and Literary Criticism

Today, we will look at ‘disability and literary criticism’ module. I thought I will just introduce the module. Why literary criticism? Well, disability as an identity, trope, context, modality of literary production and consumption contribute uniquely to literary criticism. As you might have guessed by now, disability contributes uniquely to the question of embodiment, connectivity, question of vulnerability and so on.

It has a very unique dimension to literary criticism and that is the purpose of this module. Regarding module details, in connecting disability and literary criticism I have traversed across different forms and genres such as story, poetry, drama, novel, best sellers and so on. At the same time, I have also had the rare privilege of interviewing literary critics and theorists like professor Amy Schumann about story and other people's story, professor Ato Quayson on the notion of aesthetic nervousness and professor Chitra on disability, spirituality and hagiography. So that is a good way to understand and contribute to the enduring connection between disability and literary criticism. I am sure you will enjoy this module. Before I conclude my introduction, let me open up the field.

Well, exemplary books in the field. You might consider ‘Routledge Companion to Literature and Disability’ by Alice Hall and for a general textbook survey of the field of literary theory and diversity you might consider the book ‘The Literary Theory Handbook’ by Gregory Castle.

Disability does not figure in this book, but you know when you read it along with the Routledge Companion to Literature and Disability it will definitely ground you well in the field and give you very important tools to deal with the notion and deal with the framework. Thank you.