

SSHRC Explore Final Report

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Project Title: Finding Accessibility in Feminist Philosophy of Disability

1.1 Project Summary

This project brings feminist philosophy together with critical disability studies, arts-based methods and a focus on outward translations of research in order to explore “access” as a complex, multi-faceted aspect of embodiment, design, space, practices, and concepts.

1.2 Student involvement

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1.3 Dissemination and Knowledge Mobilization

This grant supported and made possible: the publication of three peer-reviewed articles. More specifically, “Crip Pedagogies” is a peer-reviewed, open access article, written for Oxford University Press, co-written with a doctoral candidate in philosophy. The research for this article came directly out of this grant-project. Second, “Existential Erotics” is a peer-reviewed article, forthcoming in the specialized philosophy journal “Deleuze & Guattari Studies” and focuses on the pedagogical aspects of this research project. Third, a scholarly interview with leading feminist theorist Annemarie Mol has been published in the journal “Symposium: Canadian Journal for Continental Philosophy” and lays out key philosophical findings from this grant-project. This grant also made possible the publication of three peer-reviewed book chapters, each of which speak to the philosophical issues at play in taking “access” seriously as both design and conceptual endeavour. Finally, this grant supported the editing of a special symposium on a critical disability studies book, “Cheap Talk” (University of Michigan Press), published as an open access set of scholarly conversations between the book’s author and four leading disability scholars. I facilitated, edited, and wrote the introduction for this symposium.

1.4 Project Outcomes and Impacts

The main outcomes of this grant involve student mentoring and training, the publication of 3 new articles, 3 book chapters, and one scholarly book symposium. In addition, this project’s basis in collaborative and creative inquiry was itself hugely valuable as an outcome: I hosted a four-day international conference at our institution (specifically the Library), which included our own MRU students as key co-creators in many aspects of the event. Together with my colleague Lauren Guilmette (Elon University), I proposed a co-edited collection based on the conference program and key conference findings: the book is now in production at Duke University Press, with an expected publication date of July 2025. In many ways, this forthcoming book collection will foreground “access” as a key object of inquiry into conversation with leading feminist philosophers

(my own field of expertise) while also inaugurating new methods for collaboration (something that is rare in the discipline). Moreover, I drew on the research that this grant supported to create two brand-new courses: Bioethics (which I taught in spring 2025) and Philosophy & Critical Health Studies (which I taught in fall 2025). This speaks to the timely relevance of this project's emphasis on access *as* both object of inquiry and ethos/concept/practice for philosophy, for creative methods in the humanities, and for pedagogy.