

Call for Submissions – ***KNOTS: An Undergraduate Journal of Critical Disability Studies***

Land Acknowledgement: *KNOTS: Undergraduate Journal of Critical Disability Studies* operates on stolen Indigenous land in Tkaronto (Toronto), specifically on the lands of the Huron-Wendat, Anishnaabe, and Haudenosaunee, and the Mississaugas of the Credit River. Our editors, contributors, and peer reviewers come from and work across many Indigenous lands including Tiohià:ke (Montréal) and Seḥákw (Vancouver). We acknowledge the violent processes of colonization, displacement, and genocide that have disrupted traditional communities on this land and affirm the need for decolonization across Turtle Island. The work we do, including the release of this year's issue, actively strives to contribute to and move in solidarity with anticolonial efforts globally.

ISSUE #8: Reimagining Solidarity and Care

We will find other ways (create our own ways) and talk liberation and access and interdependency with our comrades. We will weave need into our relationships like golden, shimmering glimmers of hope—opportunities to build deeper, more whole and practice what our world could look like.” — Mia Mingus (2020),

[Wherever You Are Is Where I want to Be: Crip Solidarity](#)

As the world seems to crumble around us, and the hard-won gains of disability activists face renewed and complex threats, we search for an inkling of hope. ***KNOTS* Issue #8: “Reimagining Solidarity and Care,”** responds to the ways in which the concept of “care” is increasingly mobilized to justify ableist, sanist, transphobic, and genocidal violence. Around the globe, as protective legislation is dismantled, and ongoing wars and genocides work to debilitate vulnerable communities, we seek to highlight the importance of cross-movement and intra-disability analysis and organizing. This issue of *KNOTS* explores what it means to build solidarity – nationally and transnationally – as a means of strengthening our collective, critical capacity for mutual aid, support, and allyship.

Following Sins Invalid’s provocation that “disability justice is a vision and practice of what is yet-to-be,” this issue invites readers and contributors to engage with narratives of solidarity, futurity, potentiality, and possibility. We seek to uplift alternative forms of care rooted in mutual aid, radical access, and interdependence.

We ask: What dreams, theories and strategies are needed as we seek to build a world of care rooted in solidarity, interdependence, and collective survival? How might the

very act of (re)imagining, and working together toward different kinds of futures, be itself a form of radical care for one another, and for the broader social, material, and ecological worlds to which we are deeply connected? How can allyship embody care?

Relevant Works and Disciplines:

KNOTS is a student-led, peer-reviewed journal grounded in critical disability studies, mad studies, and disability justice in both theory and praxis, that highlights work produced by undergraduate students that moves beyond normative biomedical conceptions of disability and contributes to the growth of critical disability studies as a field.

The editors are open to the widest array of topics and welcome interdisciplinary work that challenges normative and ableist conceptions of disability and embodiment. Submissions of essays, creative writing, letters, book and film reviews, as well as art pieces are welcome.

All submissions must be work produced in the context of an undergraduate degree or diploma. We recognize that the contributor may no longer be an undergraduate at the time of submission. Submissions are open internationally.

We invite written and creative submissions that critically engage with the intersections of BIPOC/racialized disability, neurodivergence, (chronic) illness, health and mental health, queerness, etc.. We welcome a wide range of formats, including essays, poetry, visual art, and multimedia, that reflect on practices of care, resistance, and community-building within and beyond institutional structures.

Submissions may explore, but are not limited to, the following themes through the lens of disability justice and critical disability studies:

- **Care, Collective Access, and Mutual Aid:** Practices of interdependence, community care networks, and sustainable models of support.
- **Pandemics and Public Health:** Responses to COVID-19 and long COVID, histories of medical racism, and community health interventions.
- **Institutionalization and Psychiatrization:** Legacies and critiques of psychiatric institutions, carceral care, and Mad activism.
- **Education and Academia:** Accessibility in schools and universities, crip pedagogies, and institutional exclusions.
- **Decolonization and Indigeneity:** Indigenous conceptions of care, healing, and land-based practices as well as general critiques of settler colonialism.

- **Migration and Displacement:** Disabled migrant, refugee, and undocumented experiences, relating to the idea of transnational solidarity and access.
- **State Violence and Border Regimes:** Policing, surveillance, detention, and the politics of disability at the border.
- **In/Accessibility and Wellness:** Ableist standards of health, design justice, and radical redefinitions of well-being.
- **Abolition and the Prison-Industrial Complex:** Disability and abolitionist movements at the intersection of race, gender, and class.
- **Climate Justice and Environmental Racism:** Disabled responses to climate crisis and environmental access.
- **Queerness and Trans Liberation:** Queercrip kinships, trans healthcare, and the politics of desire and embodiment.
- **Sexuality, Kinship, and Reproductive Justice:** Intimacy, care labor, family-making, and autonomy.
- **Rest and Resistance:** Rest as a political act; critiques of productivity under capitalism.
- **Futurities and Radical Imaginations:** Crip utopias, speculative worlds, and collective visions of liberation.

We encourage submissions that foreground lived experience, community knowledge, and grassroots perspectives. In particular, we invite submissions from people who identify as disabled, BIPOC, queer, etc.

Submission Process & Requirements

The submission process is electronic: Please email us your submission as a WORD document attachment to our email at knots.contact@gmail.com no later than **December 19th at 11:59 PM (EST)**. Include your name, pronouns, year of study, and institutional affiliation.

Written manuscripts should be a **maximum** of 4500 words, including citations. We welcome all citation styles but we ask that they remain consistent across the submission (ex. APA, MLA, Chicago).

Film and book reviews should be a maximum of 1500 words.

For artistic pieces please include an artist statement as a WORD document with your submission (250-500 words) that details the themes and ideas conveyed in the piece.

Any questions regarding content, submission or accessibility requests should be directed to knots.contact@gmail.com. The Editorial Collective looks forward to receiving your submissions and producing *KNOTS* Issue #8.

KNOTS is also seeking peer reviewers for the editorial board! If you are interested, find more information in our [Call for Reviewers](#). We will prioritize disabled, mad and BIPOC applicants.

In solidarity,
The *KNOTS* editorial team