

crip ruptures & the coloniality of “decolonizing medicine”



11. 18. 21

Access Check and Introductions



TW: ableism, anti-Blackness, institutional/state violence, madness & suicidality

Disclaimer: as QTPOC and disabled scholars, our political positionalities are often co-opted by the institution in ways that place us in academic precarity. Please refrain from disclosing our disabilities and sharing this lecture with folks outside of class. Sharing knowledge that you've personally learned and resources is always welcomed :)

Trajectory

Course *Material*:

Abolition Med & Foundational Frameworks

Abolition vs reform based politics
Medical-Industrial Complex
Disability Justice
QTBIPOC Health, Wellness & Critique

Biomedicine is a Colonial Project

Medical Experimentation
Abolishing “Biological Race”
Anti-Black biomedical ableism

Coloniality & the Medical Gaze

Biomed is a Colonial Epistemology
Deconstructing the Provider-Patient interface
Decolonizing Biomed Frameworks

Carceral Care: Biomedicine & Policing

Carceral Systems & Entanglement with Care:
PIC, military-IC, med-IC, crimmigration, incarceration & disability

Access/Healthcare realities, Neoliberalism & Racial Capitalism

Understanding Neoliberal Foundations of MIC
Disability Justice is Anti-capitalist
Abolishing Neoliberal Social Justice Efforts in the MIC

Abolition as Co-Creation: Building Alternative Care Infrastructure

Transcending the Abolition-Reform Binary
Transformative Justice
Re-imagination & Community-Based Care

Abolition Med Praxis

Doing right now!

Disability Justice and Transformative Justice

Disability Justice and Transformative Justice
intersection = disabled BIPOC
self-determination and agency

**In what ways does this intersection
inform building reimagined care?**

(abolishing carceral logic, anti-ableist healing
justice, crip of color critique, madness as
methodology, crippling the apocalypse)




Flyer from *We Move Together Disability Justice and Trans Liberation*, A conversation with Patty Berne, Reina Gossett, Kiyaa Abadani, and Malcolm Shanks. Moderated by India Harville.



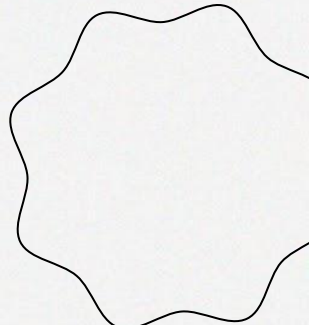

Abolishing Carceral Logics



“Normal” abled body defined by biomedicine mutually enforces the concept of non-conforming bodyminds as disabled.

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- Based on **objectivity** (white male gaze) that enables **objectification** (othering that creates colonial biopower)
 - Colonial binary of **normal + healthy + whiteness** vs. **abnormal + diseased + racialized “other”**
 - “The histories of **white supremacy and ableism** are **inextricably entwined, both forged in the crucible of colonial conquest and capitalist domination**. One cannot look at the history of US slavery, the stealing of indigenous lands, and US imperialism without seeing the way that white supremacy leverages ableism to create a subjugated ‘other’ that is deemed less worthy/abled/smart/capable ... **We cannot comprehend ableism without grasping its interrelations with heteropatriarchy, white supremacy, colonialism and capitalism.**”

- *Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice*



Trajectory

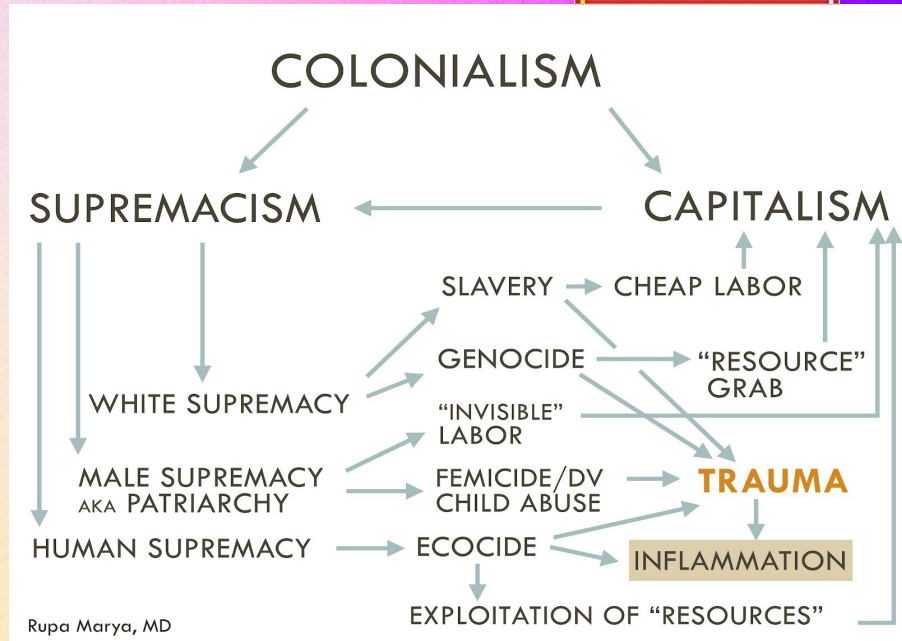
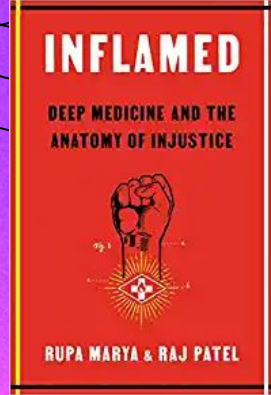
“Decolonizing
medicine”
with a
colonized
methodology?

Does the inflammation model adequately/accurately explain the **colonial wound**? How does using a **biomedical approach reproduce the colonial epistemology** (e.g. binaries of policing) that we are trying to resist?

Decolonial Embodiment:

- Generating new conceptions of health & healing that center the **invisible wounds** of colonialism (Ureña)
- A racialized disabled existence is an embodied experience that does not conform to western/colonial definitions of what counts as illness and healing
- These embodied knowledges provide insight into colonial wounds (& also challenge colonial epistemologies- biomedicine’s tools being able to “measure” them) as well as strategies to dismantle them

“For the master’s tools will never dismantle the master’s house. They may allow us to temporarily beat him at his own game, but they will never enable us to bring about genuine change...— Audre Lorde



DISABLED EMBODIMENT IS A RUPTURE in this colonial capitalist dystopia



Instead of conceptualizing disability as the failure of biomedicine to fix a localized lesion/objectified disease/reduced pathological state of being, what radical frameworks engage the *expansiveness* of disabled QTBIPOC embodiment?

Disability as... “mode of analysis rather than its objects of study,” shifting disability from noun—an identity one can occupy—to verb: a critical methodology”

“refuse to frame the nation-state as a haven of protection...move away from reform-oriented strategies that prioritize the attainment of legal rights, and toward more disruptive modes of organizing life altogether...radical imaginaries modeled... **crip-of-color critique continues the speculative project of world-making”**

Towards a Crip of Color Critique
(Jina B. Kim)



“Bed Rest”
disabled
legacies of
subverting
the bed



Madness as
methodology &
the affective
politics of
crip/trans rage



‘Madness as methodology, rather than object of analysis’ – Mad is a place



Draws parallels between “ship of fools” & middle passage of the transatlantic slave trade- violence rendering folks “**existentially captive, still rendered in that void**”

“Reason” as product of anti-Black modernity that rendered folks already *mad, deranged, pathological* >> medicalized madness born out of this>> madness as subversive/radical dreaming in the Black radical tradition. “I seek to *pursue* madness rather than to *capture* it.”

Mad methodology is a mad ensemble of epistemological modes, political praxes, interpretive techniques, affective dispositions, existential orientations & ways of life; it neither vilifies the mad person as evil incarnate, nor romanticizes the madperson as resistance personified, nor patronizes the madperson as helpless awaiting aid. Rather, mad methodology engages the complexity & variability of mad subjects.”

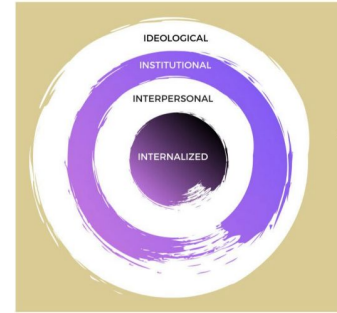
Madness is a Strategy (Jody Chen)

“in madness, I am more porous – no boundaries of time or space between my different hearts, between my body and the world. in madness, I have learned to be with pain, both my own and others’ . I have ruptured from respectability.”

“madness can be a structure of possibility; it can force us to build bonds that outlast periods of crisis, political projects, the constrictions of capitalism.”

“to commit to each other’ s care, outside the grip of any institution.”

“ I trust the people I’ ve crumbled with- everyday I’ ve handed them my life”



Anti-Carceral Approaches to Suicide

Care Strategies Grounded in an Abolitionist Practice



A two-part series to introduce our *Anti-Carceral Crisis Response School* (offerings throughout 2021-2022).

Training Webinar: Saturday, 11/6 (12-3:30 PM EST). Access: ASL, CART, recording

Interactive Skills Lab: Wednesday, 11/10 (6-9 PM EST). Access: CART, ASL available upon request

REGISTER: tinyurl.com/SuicideCareStrategies

DISABILITY AS VERB APPLIES TO HEALING JUSTICE



DJ is anti-capitalist: “a refusal to equate productivity and work with one’s life worth” (Kim)

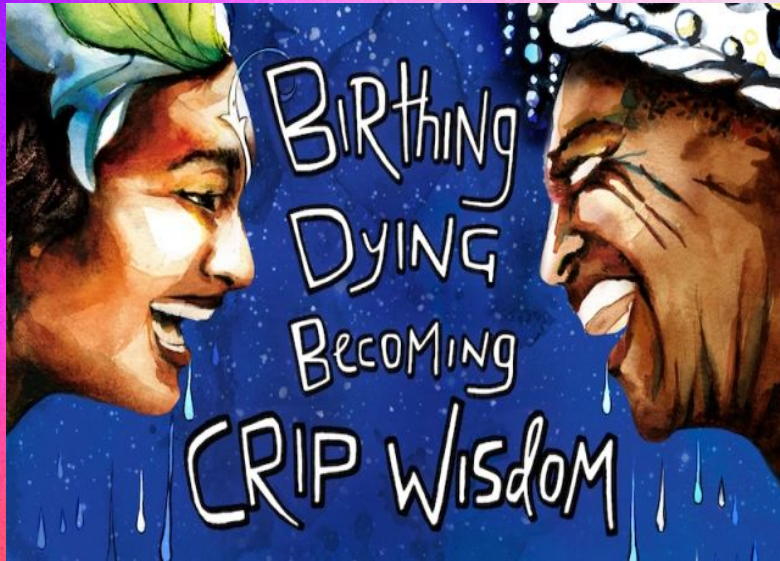


Image from sins invalid 10th anniversary performance flyer 2016

- Healing justice must center anti-ableist crip ideas of what illness and disability are.
- Ableist notion that disabled people can't be healers
- Mainstream ideas of “healing” are ableist colonial binaries of you're either sick or well, fixed or broken, and that nobody would want to be in a disabled or sick or mad bodymind.”
- Most sick and disabled people I know approach healing wanting specific things—less pain, less anxiety, more flexibility—but not usually to become able-bodied.

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha: A Not-So-Brief Personal History of the Healing Justice Movement

Crippling the Apocalypse Praxis



“[But access] is only the first step in movement building... **Disabled people are so much more than our access needs**; we can't have a movement without safety and access, and yet there is so much more still waiting for us collectively once we build this skill set of negotiating access needs with each other.”

“It's so easy to look at a list of disability justice principles and nod your head. But the real deal is messy and beautiful and real, as messy and beautiful and real as our bodyminds.”

BEYOND THE SOCIAL MODEL OF DISABILITY

“make the new world emerge, our work needs to be crippled the fuck out. Our work needs to center disability justice and the activists at the core of it, where being sick, disabled, mad, neurodivergent/autistic and/or Deaf is at the heart of our radicalism.”

Crippling the Apocalypse Praxis

Transformative
Justice
and
Pod Mapping

TJ works to build
community-based
alternatives to our
current systems...
(2:30 intro)

<https://youtu.be/U-BOFz5TXo?t=127>

TJ responses and interventions:

- 1) do not rely on the state (e.g. police, prisons, the criminal legal system, I.C.E., foster care system)
- 2) do not reinforce or perpetuate violence such as oppressive norms or vigilantism
- 3) MOST IMPORTANTLY actively cultivate the things we know to prevent violence such as healing, accountability, resilience, and safety for all involved.

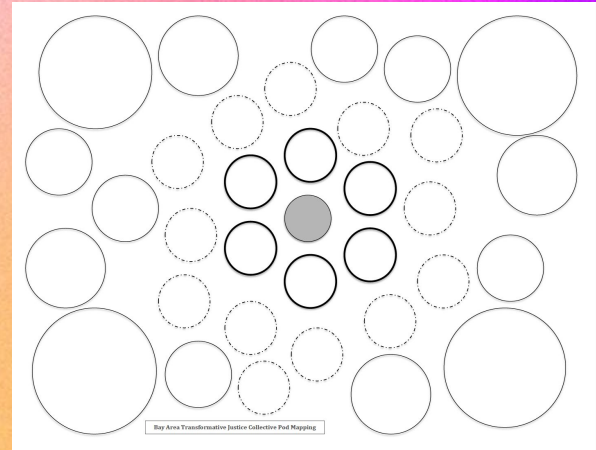
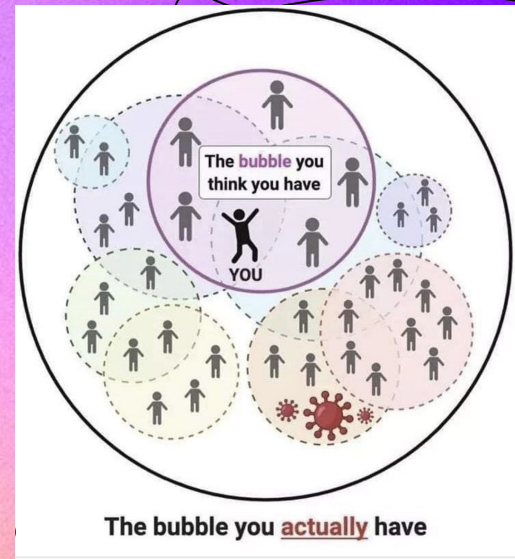
<https://batjc.wordpress.com/pods-and-pod-mapping-worksheet/>

Your pod is made up of the
people that you would call
on...

- if violence, harm or abuse happened to you
- if you wanted support in taking accountability for violence, harm or abuse that you've done
- if you witnessed violence or if someone you care about was being violent or being abused.

[https://transformharm.org/transformative-justice-a-brief-description/#:~:text=Transformative%20Justice%20\(TI\)%20is%20a,reduction%20to%20lessen%20the%20violence.](https://transformharm.org/transformative-justice-a-brief-description/#:~:text=Transformative%20Justice%20(TI)%20is%20a,reduction%20to%20lessen%20the%20violence.)

Bubble Image from @ThoughtsofAPHD





THANK YOU AND REFERENCES

<https://bat.jc.wordpress.com/pods-and-pod-mapping-worksheet/>

[https://transformharm.org/transformative-justice-a-brief-description/#:~:text=Transformative%20justice%20\(TJ\)%20is%20a.reduction%20to%20lessen%20the%20violence.](https://transformharm.org/transformative-justice-a-brief-description/#:~:text=Transformative%20justice%20(TJ)%20is%20a.reduction%20to%20lessen%20the%20violence.)

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=8dKystkbHKQ> DJ and TJ video

<https://youtu.be/U-BOFz5TXo?t=127> TJ video

Bubble Image from @ThoughtsOfAPHD

Image of Cai Guo-Qiang's Elegy, chapter one of Elegy: Explosion Event

Video of "Color Mushroom Cloud" (2017) by Cai Guo-Qiang

Images from sins invalid 10th anniversary performance flyer 2016

Flyer Image from We Move Together Disability Justice and Trans Liberation, A conversation with Patty Berne, Reina Gossett, Kiyaan Abadani, and Malcolm Shanks. Moderated by India Harville.

Towards a Crip of Color Critique (Jina B. Kim)

Inflamed by Rupa Marya and Raj Patel

Decolonial Embodiment by Carolyn Ureña

Madness is a Strategy (Jody Chen)

Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha:

- A Not-So-Brief Personal History of the Healing Justice Movement
- CRIPPING THE APOCALYPSE: SOME OF MY WILD DISABILITY JUSTICE DREAMS
- Care Work: Dreaming Disability Justice

