



KING'S

Disability Studies

Faculty Research and Teaching Areas

P. J. Cushing, PhD Anthropology Founder and Program Coordinator for DS. Cultural Systems and Attitudes; Narratives, Relationships, Social Inclusion; Representation, L'Arche, Camphill.

J. Preston, PhD Western University, Media Studies. Popular culture, Digital culture, Media/Representation, Discourse analysis, Social psychology, Policy development & analysis

JJ Heng, PhD History and Philosophy of Science. Catholic Bioethics; Ethics of Healthcare; Developmental and Intellectual Disability, Thanatology

T. Haley, PhD Political Science. Feminist political economy, trans-institutionalization, Mad Studies, social policy, intersectional pedagogy, universal design for learning

M. Quevillon: Director of Community-based Educational Partnerships

Please check out our faculty page for a full list of amazing professors.

Mutual Relationships
Self-Advocacy Social Networks
Ethics of Care Human Rights
Diversity
Disability History
Difference Attitudes
People First Quality of Life Anthropology
Social Inclusion Grassroots
Mental Health Personhood Inquiry-based Learning
Policy Engagement

For more information

Disability Studies
King's University College
519-433-3491
1-800-265-4406
pcushin@uwo.ca
kings.uwo.ca/disability-studies



kingsatwestern



kingsatuwo



kingsatwestern



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Building bridges across difference

Get connected. Make a difference.



266 Epworth Avenue, London ON N6A 2M3
kings@uwo.ca



Disability Studies

The King's Disability Studies (DS) program creates space for rethinking the traditional, medical approaches to imagining disability, mental health and related social institutions. We use everyday life cases, and the first-person voice of disabled people, to unsettle common misperceptions about life with disability. We illustrate how to shift away from old assumptions that it is the person with impairment that needs 'fixing', towards creative new ways to think about fixing or adapting the social, policy and built environments to be more inclusive.

We strive to build in direct experiences with the disability community – individuals and organizations – for our students through guest speakers, field site visits, and research opportunities. Students often find these engaging encounters transform their sense of how they can make a difference in the world.

Students can do a Major or a Minor module in DS paired with any other disciplinary modules. Details are on the website under 'Programs offered'. Credit equivalency available for college student transfers.



Course Topics

- Rethinking Disability
- Disability Labels
- Education
- Sports & Recreation
- Bioethics and the Law
- Rights, Policy and History
- Narratives and Care
- Cross-Cultural Perspectives
- Autism controversies
- Rehabilitation Sciences
- Theory
- Camps and Inclusion
- Gender and Sexuality
- Madness & Mad Studies
- Community Based Experience

Career Options

Understanding disability and mental health, and society's role in creating barriers that disable people, has become a vital skill for people across many schools and workplaces. Here are a few fields our students are involved in during and after university (more on website):

- Camp Counsellor and Director
- Community Development and Social Innovation
- Inclusive Recreation leadership and Program Design
- Teacher or Educational Assistant
- + Programming for Aging populations
- Human Resources and E.A.P. Advisors
- Social Worker, counsellor, community psychology
- + First responders (police, paramedic, firefighter, military)
- Social Researcher or Professor
- Occupational and Physical Therapy and Speech Pathology
- Policy Creation and implementation
- Disability-positive Product and Service Innovation and Advertising
- Mental Health field and Mad-positive activism

Student Testimonials

Disability Studies opened several doors of employment opportunity for me in London and has now pointed me towards a career path. I still use everything I learned at King's and DS in my Master's degree.

Brittany B. '13

The DS courses really complement my Psychology major and my work in mental health assessment labs. DS helped me discern ways to re-think some standard gaps in Psychology's understanding of how to communicate with, and support, disabled people in a therapeutic setting. Learning and working with the Deaf community inspired me to consider an ASL interpreter career.

Julia K. '14

As a Western Mustangs athlete, sports are my passion. Professor Cushing uses DS ideas to make complex and publicized issues relatable to everyone. The field trips, guest speakers and Paralympic units had me wanting to be at class every week. I recommend everyone to broaden their knowledge by taking DS courses.

Josh U. '13

