5th Century BC: Hysteria created as a disease. Hippocrates (i.e., the founder of western medicine, in what may not go down as his greatest achievement) first coined the term “hysteria”—from “hystera,” or uterus—and also attributed its cause to abnormal movements of the womb in a woman’s body. Before its classification as a mental disorder, hysteria was considered a physical ailment, first described medically in 1880 by Jean-Martin Charcot. Until 1980 hysteria was a formally studied psychological disorder that could be found in the American Psychiatric Association’s Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders.

1851: Drapetomania and Dysaethesia Aethiopica created by Samuel A. Cartwright. Drapetomania was a conjectural mental illness that was hypothesized as the cause of enslaved Africans fleeing captivity. “The disease causing negroes to run away” & Dysaethesia Aethiopica was a mental and physical illness that led to fatigue.

1865: The term ‘eugenics’ is coined by Sir Francis Galton. “Eugenics is the belief that human evolution can be crafted by the encouraged breeding of people who are considered the most desirable—the ‘fit’—and the discouraged breeding of those who are considered the least desirable—the ‘unfit’” (Withers, 2012, p. 13).

1880: The Second World Congress to Improve the Welfare of the Deaf and Blind promotes oral instruction over sign language. The Second World Congress to Improve the Welfare of the Deaf and Blind decides to promote oral instruction over sign language. In addition, the first international conference of deaf educators, held in Milan, declares that oral education is superior to manual education and passes a resolution banning the use of sign language in school. Schools in Europe and the USA switch to using speech therapy without sign language in education for Deaf people.

1904: IQ Testing created. The Binet-Simon Measuring Scale of Intelligence created by psychologist Lewis M. Terman, which placed respondents into 7 categories: Superior, Normal, Dull, Borderline, Feebleminded, Imbecile and Idiot. Its effects were furthered through the sterilization of anyone who was deemed “feebleminded” or below (Chavez-Garcia, 2012, p. 68), in addition to anyone who had schizophrenia, manic depression, psychosis, epilepsy, homosexuality, syphilis, blindness, deafness and physical deformities (p. 133).
1924: Passage of the Virginia Sterilization Act. In order for a sterilization to take place under the Eugenical Sterilization Act the superintendent of a colony or hospital had to present the case for each individual to be sterilized in the form of a petition to a special board of directors at said institution. A copy of this petition was also required to be presented to the patient and the legal guardian of the patient. Thirty days after the board deemed an individual fit for sterilization, the sterilization was permitted to occur. Appeals were heard but rarely considered. No individual involved in this process could be held civilly or criminally liable. Additionally, nothing in the Eugenical Sterilization Act could prevent a legally licensed doctor from partaking in a medical procedure that could “incidentally involve the nullification or destruction of reproductive functions” (SB 281, Virginia Sterilization Act; (Landman 1932, p. 84).

1927: Virginia Sterilization Act challenged in Buck v Bell. The sterilization of Virginia resident Carrie Buck is perhaps the most infamous case of sterilization in not only Virginia but also the United States as a whole. Buck was deemed “defective” and institutionalized in the Virginia Colony for Epileptics and Feebleminded four years after her mother was similarly institutionalized. Buck was classified as “feeble-minded” after giving birth to an illegitimate child as a result of rape by relative of her foster family. Her daughter was subsequently deemed feebleminded at the age of 6 months.” Under accusations of hereditary defectiveness, Carrie Buck faced a series of trials and appeals used to legitimize her pending sterilization. She was defended by Aubrey Strode, a known supporter of sterilization, whose defense focused more on the potential benefits of Buck’s sterilization than the consequences (Lombardo 2008b, p. 136) Nonetheless, with the 1927 Supreme Court ruling in Buck v. Bell, sterilization was legitimized and Buck was consequently sterilized to prevent the birth of more “defective” individuals. It was said by Supreme Court Justice, Oliver Holmes that “three generations of imbeciles are enough” (Lombardo 2003, pp. 2-4; Paul 1965, pp. 497-507).

1935: The League for the Physically Handicapped protests in New York. A group in New York City called ‘The League for the Physically Handicapped’ is formed to protest against discrimination by the Works Progress Administration. Members of the League of the Physically Handicapped hold a sit-in at the New York City Emergency Relief Bureau after being refused access to public work relief programs. The sit-in lasts for nine days before police arrest the demonstrators. They eventually generate over 1,000 jobs nationwide.

1939: Holocaust and T-4 Programme. One hundred thousand children and adults with mental and physical disabilities were exterminated. Some who managed to live were subjected to inhumane and unconscionable medical experiments. The headquarters of Germany’s Euthanasia Programme, established by the German government, was located at Tiergartenstrasse 4, Berlin. The code name for the Programme was T-4. Hitler’s rise to power was guided by the principles of racial hygiene, racial purity, and national health. The Nazi regime was committed to removing those individuals deemed unfit to live and produce inferior offspring. Hitler’s definition of unfit was extremely broad and not only included “inferior races,” but individuals with disabilities as well. By lethal injection or at killing stations, hundreds of thousands of people were put to death.

1907: Indiana Passes the nation’s first sterilization law Williams et al. v Smith on May 11th. This act authorized the board of managers of institutions “instructed [sic] with the care of defectives and confirmed criminals and a committee of expert to perform an operation of vasectomy on an inmate, if deemed advisable, to prevent procreation...That on and after the passage of this act it shall be compulsory for each and every institution in the state, intrusted [sic] with the care of confirmed criminals, idiots, rapists and imbeciles, to appoint upon its staff, in addition to the regular institutional physician, two (2) skilled surgeons of recognized ability, whose duty it shall be, in conjunction with the chief physician of the institution, to examine the inmates as are recommended by the institutional physician and board of managers...”
1944: The Disabled Persons Employment Act passes in the U.K. The Disability Employment Act placed a duty on employers with more than 20 employees to ensure that at least 3% of roles were offered to disabled people. Following the war, the government founded Remploy, which provided 'sheltered work' for disabled people in specially designed factories.

1948: Start of Paralympics. On 29 July, the day of the Opening Ceremony of the London Olympic Games, Dr. Guttmann organised the first competition for wheelchair athletes which he named the Stoke Mandeville Games, a milestone in Paralympic history. They involved 16 injured servicemen and women who took part in archery. Sport for athletes with an impairment has existed for more than 100 years, and the first sport clubs for the deaf were already in existence in 1888 in Berlin. In 1976 the first Winter Games in Paralympics history were held in Sweden, and as with the Summer Games, have taken place every four years, and include a Paralympics Opening Ceremony and Paralympics Closing Ceremony. Since the Summer Games of Seoul, Korea in 1988 and the Winter Games in Albertville, France in 1992 the Games have also taken part in the same cities and venues as the Olympics due to an agreement between the IPC and IOC.

1950: The First National Parent's Conference is held in the U.S. Formation of the National Association of Parents and Friends of Retarded Children The National Association of Parents and Friends of Retarded Children was first registered as a nonprofit organization in 1953 and named the National Association for Retarded Children. In 1973, the organization changed its name to the National Association for Retarded Citizens, and in 1981 to The Association for Retarded Citizens of the United States. The most recent change was in 1992 when the national organization became known as The Arc. The Arc continues to be one of the largest voluntary organizations comprised of family, friends, self-advocates, and professionals. The organization has grown from its few founding members to 220,936 individuals at its peak in 1977.

1952: The first Diagnostic Statistical Manual is Created. Creation of DSM (Diagnostic and Statistical Manual) The Diagnostic and Statistical Manual of Mental Disorders (DSM) was created by the American Psychiatric Association so that mental health professionals in the United States would have a common language to use when diagnosing individuals with mental disorders.

1959: The Kenya Union of the Blind is formed. the Kenya Union of the Blind, was a grassroots movement founded four years before national independence. As the oldest organization of persons with disabilities in East Africa, KUB demonstrates the role of disabled Africans as agents of social change. On June 27, after informal organizing since 1953, the Kenya Union of the Blind finally came into being during a gathering at the Thika School, with forty-four delegates in attendance and with Major Gordon Swansbury, the school's principal, as the guest of honor. In 1964, after years of futile correspondence with government officials, the Union organized a street march to the prime minister's office to attract attention to its grievances. The result was a government panel, the Mwendwa Committee for the Care and Rehabilitation of the Disabled, whose published report became the blueprint for social and rehabilitation programs.

1948: Image from the first Paralympic games, titled the Austerity Games, in 1948 in Stoke Mandeville in England including 16 British WWII veterans with spinal cord injuries. Shown here playing wheelchair basketball.
1964: Disabled People South Africa (DPSA) is formed. The DPSA was registered as a non-profit organization in 2000 under the NPO ACT OF NO 71 OF 1997 under the department of social development. This organization was formed with the purpose of unifying the voice of the disabled people. DPSA is committed to serve the organization and its members by Practicing strong and appropriate leadership Building the organization and all its members to thrive in the new millennium Creating a culture of respect for diversity and nurturing tolerance of our differences Developing and maintaining intellectual, social and economic health The mission statement of the organization is a South Africa accessible to all and the mission is to be an effective and efficient democratic national assembly of all persons with disabilities that mobilizes us to advocate for our rights and for the attainment of equal opportunity in an integrated social, political and economic environment and the slogan is nothing about us without us

1968: Start of Special Olympics. The genesis of Special Olympics was a summer day camp that Sargent and Eunice Shriver started in the backyard of their Maryland home. In July, the world witnessed the first International Special Olympics Games at Soldier Field in Chicago. In December of that year, the Joseph P. Kennedy Foundation incorporated Special Olympics. Since then, Special Olympics has grown to become the largest program of its kind.

1969: The Rolling Quads is formed at UC Berkeley. Rolling Quads is formed by Ed Roberts. At the University of California Berkeley, students with disabilities form an informal network called the Rolling Quads in order to advocate for themselves on campus. Members go on to found the Berkeley Center for Independent Living and the early disability rights movement. One student in particular, Ed Roberts, takes on the role of leader in much of their work, and later comes to be known as the father of the independent living movement.

1970: Hunger strike at Fuchu Ryoiku Centre in Japan. The disability rights movement in Japan emerged in the 1960s and 70s alongside other movements (anti-Vietnam war, student, environmental, feminist and Buraku liberation movements). The Fuchu Ryoiku Centre was a residential institution opened in 1968. While it was hailed as a “model institution,” patients experienced maltreatment such as coerced surgeries, medical research, lack of hygiene, overcrowding, lack of food, lack of visitation rights, and verbal and physical abuse by staff. After requests for better treatment were ignored, some residents in 1970 began a hunger strike. While the strike gained media attention no changes were made until 1972, when the residents union called for sit-ins in front of the Tokyo municipal building.

1972: Sit-in protests at the Tokyo Municipal Building. While the Fuchu Ryoiku strike gained media attention, no changes were made until 1972, when the residents union called for sit-ins in front of the Tokyo municipal building. Protesters gained support from student and labour activists. The sit-ins lasted for more than a year. This led to the government investigating residential institutions, and for protesters and disabled people to consider independent living in the community—rather than the options of living with parents or in an institution. The first center for independent living would not open in Japan until 1986 in a suburb of Tokyo.
1972: Centers for Independent Living started. "The Berkeley CIL was also revolutionary as a model for advocacy based organizations; no longer would we tolerate being spoken for. Our laws said that at least 51% of the staff and Board had to be people with disabilities, or it would be the same old oppression. We also saw the CIL as a model for joining all the splintered factions of different disability organizations. All types of people used and worked in our Center. This was the vision we had for the future of the movement." The Berkeley CIL hosted the first national conference for independent living in 1975. The success of the Center for Independent Living in Berkeley was soon followed by Centers in Boston and Houston. Within a decade, Centers for Independent Living were also established in other states.

1972: ADAPT (Able Disable All People Together) is founded in India. ADAPT – Able Disable All People Together (formerly known as The Spastics Society of India), India’s most noted non-profit and a non-governmental organization (NGO) working for neuro-muscular and developmental disabilities, was started on 2 October by Mithu Alur, to provide education and treatment services for children suffering from cerebral palsy. Today it has broadened its scope to include programs on teacher training and vocational training of young adults with cerebral palsy, autism, mental retardation, multiple disabilities and learning disabilities. It also works in the field of advocacy and awareness and offers support to parents and other professionals. It has led to the formation of independent Spastic societies in 16 states in India. In 1999, it established the National Resource Centre for Inclusion (NRCI), in Mumbai, to include disabled children from special schools into non-special schools.

1972: the Union of Physically Impaired Against Segregation (UPIAS) was formed. The Union of Physically Impaired Against Segregation (UPIAS) was formed by disabled people, and it began to campaign for the inclusion of disabled people into mainstream society. UPIAS was founded by Paul Hunt (1937-1979) when he invited disabled people to form a group to confront disability issues. Hunt printed a letter in The Guardian newspaper on 20 September, and in the Magic Carpet newsletter of the Disabled Drivers Association, calling for a radical union of disabled people to fight for mainstream rights and to fight against segregation. The Union of the Physically Impaired Against Segregation (UPIAS) was an early disability rights organisation which established the principles that the Social Model of Disability was based upon. The Fundamental Principles of Disability was a leading influence in revolutionising disabled people’s understanding of their role in society.

1973: Homosexuality removed from the DSM. This was removed after the DSM-II. This was changed to “Sexual Orientation Disturbance” “This category is for individuals whose sexual interests are directed primarily toward people of the same sex and who are either disturbed by, in conflict with, or wish to change their sexual orientation. This diagnostic category is distinguished from homosexuality, which by itself does not constitute a psychiatric disorder. Homosexuality per se is one form of sexual behavior and, like other forms of sexual behavior which are not by themselves psychiatric disorders, is not listed in this nomenclature of mental disorders. (In the first 5 printings of DSM-II, from 1968 to 1973, the code number for this category was for the ICD term homosexuality. The reasons for this change in subsequent printings of DSM-11 are noted in a Position Paper by the Nomenclature and Statistics Committee of 1973 follows.)” (APA statement)

1973: Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act. Section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act was the first disability civil rights law to be enacted in the United States. It prohibits discrimination against people with disabilities in programs that receive federal financial assistance, and set the stage for enactment of the Americans with Disabilities Act. Section 504 works together with the ADA and IDEA to protect children and adults with disabilities from exclusion, and unequal treatment in schools, jobs and the community. In 1986 Amendments to the Rehabilitation Act required states to show that policies exist regarding the order in which individuals are selected to receive services (“order of selection” process) and to justify those policies; include in the state plan a plan for youth transition to employment; and reflect how the supported employment program would be implemented in the state. The definition of “severe handicap” was amended to include both functional and categorical criteria, and a definition of “employability” was added.
1974: Removal of institutions in U.S. Executive Order 11776. President Richard Nixon issued Executive Order 11776 reaffirming the national goal of returning about one-third of the 200,000 people with mental retardation in public institutions to community residential placements. By the early 1990s, New Hampshire, Vermont, Rhode Island, Washington D.C. and Maine had closed their public institutions, and many states had reduced the number and size of their institutions.

1975: The United Nations General Assembly Declaration on the Rights of Disabled Persons. The term “disabled person” means any person unable to ensure by himself or herself wholly or partly the necessities of a normal individual and/or social life, as a result of a deficiency, either congenital or not, in his or her physical or mental capabilities. Disabled persons shall enjoy all the rights set forth in this Declaration. These rights shall be granted to all disabled persons without any exception whatsoever and without distinction or discrimination on the basis of race, color, sex, language, religion, political or other opinions, national or social origin, state of wealth, birth, and any other situation applying either to the disabled person himself or herself or to his or her family.

1977: 504 sit-in protests. Between 1973 and 1977 no regulations were issued for the 504 Rehabilitation Act. During that period strong regulations were drafted by attorneys in the Office for Civil Rights, sent to the Secretary of HEW with a recommendation to publish them in proposed form in the Federal Register for public comment. The protest was a 26-day sit in at the San Francisco Offices of the Federal Department of Health, Education, and Welfare led by the Center for Independent Living at UC Berkeley. It began with a rally outside the federal building, then they marched inside where between 1 and 200 people would remain until the end. The Glide Memorial Church and the Black Panther Party provided meals for the protestors.

1978: The "Cripples' Groups" (Krüppelgruppen) is founded in Germany. The “Cripples’ Groups” (Krüppelgruppen) were founded by activists Horst Frehe and Franz Christoph. In 1977 the two of them had developed the “cripples' position” on disability. It comprised a perception of disability as the societal suppression of disabled people and the forced conformity to the values, ideals and aesthetics of non-disabled people as a form of cultural enslavement. The best way to develop a “cripples' consciousness” appeared not to be partnership, but opposition to the oppressors (Frehe, 1997, p. 14). Non-disabled people were excluded from the Cripples' Groups — another provocation. “Often we are asked why we call ourselves cripples [...]. For us, the term disability only masks the real societal conditions whereas the name cripple highlights the distance between us and the so-called non-disabled. Through the segregation in institutions, special schools and rehabilitation centers we are being kept utmost dependent and isolated. On the other hand parental overprotection destroys our possibilities for self-development. This shows that we are not only being dis-abled (i.e. by curbs) but systematically destroyed. Consequently, the term ripple seems to be more straightforward to us, because non-disabled people with their bogus integration (‘disabled people are people too’) can’t hide behind it (N.N., 1982, p. 2)

1974: Chicago repeals the last “ugly law”. In the late-nineteenth and early-twentieth centuries, So-called “ugly laws” were mostly municipal statutes in the United States that outlawed the appearance in public of people who were, in the words of one of these laws, “diseased, maimed, mutilated, or in any way deformed, so as to be an unsightly or disgusting object” (Chicago City Code 1881). Although the moniker “ugly laws” was coined to refer collectively to such ordinances only in 1975 (Burgdorf and Burgdorf 1975), it has become the primary way to refer to such laws, which targeted the overlapping categories of the poor, the homeless, vagrants, and those with visible disabilities.

1977: The Canadian Human Rights Act is passed. The purpose of this Act is to extend the laws in Canada to give effect, within the purview of matters coming within the legislative authority of Parliament, to the principle that all individuals should have an equal opportunity to make for themselves the lives that they are able and wish to have, consistent with their duties and obligations as members of society, without being hindered in or prevented from doing so by discriminatory practices based on race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, disability or conviction for an offence for which a pardon has been granted. For all purposes of this Act, the prohibited grounds of discrimination are race, national or ethnic origin, colour, religion, age, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, family status, disability and conviction for which a pardon has been granted.
1980: 5000 demonstrators protest the “Frankfurt Judgement” in West Germany. An important change came in February, as a result of a court decision that made history as the “Frankfurt Judgment”. In this highly debated decision, a vacationer was granted a reduction in travel expenses because she had to bear the sight of severely disabled persons on her holidays. May 8th, 5000 demonstrators from all over West Germany gathered in Frankfort, a lot of them disabled. A gathering like this had no predecessor in Germany. Attention was not only drawn to the ableist court decision but also to the extensive discrimination against disabled people. Disabled speakers also maintained that they were perfectly able to speak for themselves and to stand up for their rights. Even though this demonstration did not lead to a reversal of the court’s decision, it served as an enormous boost for the fledgling Disability Rights Movement.

1981: The U.N. declares it the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP). In 1976, the General Assembly proclaimed 1981 as the International Year of Disabled Persons (IYDP). It called for a plan of action at the national, regional and international levels, with an emphasis on equalization of opportunities, rehabilitation and prevention of disabilities. The theme of IYDP was “full participation and equality”, defined as the right of persons with disabilities to take part fully in the life and development of their societies, enjoy living conditions equal to those of other citizens, and have an equal share in improved conditions resulting from socio-economic development. Other objectives of the Year included: increasing public awareness; understanding and acceptance of persons with disabilities; and encouraging persons with disabilities to form organizations through which they can express their views and promote action to improve their situation. A major lesson of the Year was that the image of persons with disabilities depends to an important extent on social attitudes; these were a major barrier to the realization of the goal of full participation and equality in society by persons with disabilities.

1981: The “Cripples’ Tribunal” (Krüppel-Tribunal) is held in Germany. Being well aware that disability officials would only use “The Year of the Disabled” as a platform to sing their own praises without actually making any changes, a coalition of disability activists had decided to use the UN year for their own purposes. The “Cripples’ Tribunal” was held in analogy to Amnesty International’s “Russell-Tribunals” which drew attention to human rights violations, in this case the violation of disabled people's human rights. The organizers wanted to charge the government with their segregative disability politics and call for massive and radical resistance.

1983: ADAPT started in U.S. ADAPT (American Disabled for Attendant Programs Today, formerly American Disabled for Accessible Public Transit) represents the militant side of the disability rights movement. In direct opposition to the role of persons with disabilities gladly accepting charity, ADAPT members have waged numerous protests and demonstrations. After passage of the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) in 1990, ADAPT changed its focus from public transit to the nursing home industry, believing that the billions of dollars generated by the industry should be appropriated instead for personal care assistants.

1988: Gallaudet University Deaf President Now Protests. The Deaf President Now (DPN) movement led to the appointment of the University's first deaf president, Dr. I. King Jordan, and the Board of Trustees' first deaf chair, Philip Bravin. Since then, DPN has become synonymous with self-determination and empowerment for deaf and hard of hearing people everywhere. The week-long protest by deaf students at Gallaudet University, calling for the appointment of a deaf university President, was a defining moment for the disability rights movement.
1990: Capitol Crawl. When the ADA stalled in the House Committee on Public Works and Transportation (now the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure), people within the disability community became alarmed. About 475 individuals, many in wheelchairs, gathered on the sidewalk in front of the White House to launch the "Wheels of Justice Campaign". Sixty protesters with disabilities "cast aside their wheelchairs, crutches and walkers to crawl or drag themselves, step by step, up the 78 marble stairs of the Capitol's West Front. This protest, that came to be known as the "Capitol Crawl", was intended to openly illustrate the struggles that people in the disabilities communities faced and spurred Congress to pass the ADA. About 1,000 other protesters watched as members of ADAPT (Americans Disabled for Accessible Public Transit, now known only as ADAPT) threw themselves out of their chairs and began their crawl. Together, the march and the crawl comprised one of the largest disability direct actions to date.

1990: IDEA (Individuals with Disabilities Education Act). The Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (IDEA) is a law that makes available a free appropriate public education to eligible children with disabilities throughout the nation and ensures special education and related services to those children. The law guaranteed access to a free appropriate public education (FAPE) in the least restrictive environment (LRE) to every child with a disability. Subsequent amendments, as reflected in the IDEA, have led to an increased emphasis on access to the general education curriculum, the provision of services for young children from birth through five, transition planning, and accountability for the achievement of students with disabilities. The IDEA upholds and protects the rights of infants, toddlers, children, and youth with disabilities and their families.

1990: Passage of ADA. The Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) became law in 1990. The ADA is a civil rights law that prohibits discrimination against individuals with disabilities in all areas of public life, including jobs, schools, transportation, and all public and private places that are open to the general public. The purpose of the law is to make sure that people with disabilities have the same rights and opportunities as everyone else. The ADA is divided into five titles (or sections) that relate to different areas of public life. Title I: Employment
Title II: Public Services: State and Local Government
Title III: Public Accommodations and Services Operated by Private Entities
Title IV: Telecommunications
Title V: Miscellaneous Provisions
Who is protected? Disability – A physical or mental impairment that substantially limits one or more major life activities, a record of such an impairment, or being regarded as having such an impairment.

1990: First Disability Pride March held in Boston. The first Disability Pride Day was held in Boston, MA. The featured speaker was Karen Thompson, author of Why Can't Sharon Kowalski Come Home? The Boston Disability Pride Parade was held again in 1991, but has not been held since in Boston.
1992: The U.N. establishes December 3rd as the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. The annual observance of the International Day of Disabled Persons was proclaimed in 1992 by United Nations General Assembly resolution 47/3. It aims to promote the rights and well-being of persons with disabilities in all spheres of society and development, and to increase awareness of the situation of persons with disabilities in every aspect of political, social, economic and cultural life.

1994: First Disability Studies program is created. Teacher training programs in special education merged with the School of Education's Teaching & Leadership to promote the preparation of teachers competent to educate students in inclusive schools. Faculty associated with the sociology of disability and public policy became part of Cultural Foundations of Education, and disability studies was established at the graduate level. Since the early 1970s, Syracuse University programs and centers have been involved in research, training, and advocacy efforts in the area of disability. Faculty and students in the School of Education have examined media portrayals and cultural stereotypes of people with disabilities, institutional abuse, the social construction of mental retardation, the history of mental retardation, public policy and developmental disabilities, school inclusion, and the experiences of people with disabilities and their families in the community. Much of the research at Syracuse has been based on qualitative or ethnographic research methods, and faculty have helped to popularize this research approach in education and human services.

1995: First international Symposium on Issues of Women and Disability Held in Beijing. The United Nations (UN) held its Fourth World Conference on the Status of Women from September 5 - 15, in Beijing, China. In conjunction with the UN conference a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO) Forum on Women was held from August 30 through September 7. Disabled women organizers strategically scheduled the First International Symposium on Issues of Women with Disabilities on August 29, the day before the NGO Forum began. This was an historic event in that it was the first time that disabled women organized to target a traditionally nondisabled women's conference. Over 200 disabled women and their allies from 25 countries attended the symposium. Disabled women and disability rights organizations were responsible for organizing the symposium and bringing women to Beijing. At the symposium one of the goals was for each disabled woman to be a participant in the decisions about issues affecting disabled women and how they should be addressed at the NGO Forum and UN Conference.

1993: Mad Pride Movement is created. The mad pride movement started in Toronto, where the event has been held every year. The movement also gained momentum in the U.K. in 1999. And events and parades are now held globally in Brazil, Ireland, South Africa, Madagascar, and the United States.

1995: The UK passes the Disability Rights Act/Disability Discrimination Act. The UK Government passed the Disability Discrimination Act (DDA). Its intention was to end discrimination against disabled people. It aims to protect people in the areas of employment, access to goods, facilities and services, the management, buying or renting of land or property and education. This was eventually replaced by the Equality Act in 2010.

1999: Unnecessary Institutionalization & Olmstead vs Lois Curtis 1999. Olmstead v Lois Curtis ruled that unnecessary institutionalization of people with disabilities constitutes discrimination and violates the ADA, that individuals have a right to receive benefits in the “most integrated setting appropriate to their needs,” and that failure to find community-based placements for qualifying people with disabilities is illegal discrimination.
2005: Disability justice collective formed. The Disability Justice Collective (DJC) is a national collective centering the lives and leadership of disabled people of color, Trans*, queer, poverty class folks and all brilliance from the margins. Disability justice is a framework that examines disability and ableism as it relates to other forms of oppression and identity (race, class, gender, sexuality, citizenship, incarceration, size, etc.). It was developed starting in 2005 by the Disability Justice Collective, a group of Black, brown, queer and trans people including Patty Berne, Mia Mingus, Stacey Milbern, Leroy F. Moore Jr., Eli Clare, and Sebastian Margaret.


2006: Sins Invalid formed. Patricia Berne co-founded Sins Invalid with Leroy Moore in 2006, and has been the driving force and creative vision behind our project for the past 12 years. Sins Invalid is a disability justice based performance project that incubates and celebrates artists with disabilities, centralizing artists of color and LGBTQ / gender-variant artists as communities who have been historically marginalized. Led by disabled people of color, Sins Invalid's performance work explores the themes of sexuality, embodiment and the disabled body, developing provocative work where paradigms of “normal” and “sexy” are challenged, offering instead a vision of beauty and sexuality inclusive of all bodies and communities.

2004: Ashley X receives “The Treatment”. Ashley X was diagnosed with static encephalopathy, and in 2004 her parents consulted with doctors to design a controversial treatment to both stunt her growth, halt her ability to go through puberty and sterilize her (Kafer, 2013, p. 47). However, despite the media controversy her parents and the doctors maintained that these surgical interventions were necessary to improve Ashley’s future quality of life by reducing her pain and discomfort, as well as by enabling her parents to continue to care for her at home (Kafer, 2013, p. 47). Further, those in support of “the Treatment” argued that Ashley was “too severely disabled to be considered a disabled person,” in fact, her parents referred to her as “permanently unable” (Kafer, 2013, p. 67).

2005: Terri Schiavo passes away. The Terri Schiavo case was a right-to-die, legal case in the United States from 1990 to 2005, involving Theresa Marie Schiavo (née Schindler) (December 3, 1963 – March 31, 2005), a woman in an irreversible persistent vegetative state. Eventually, the courts agreed with Michael and allowed her feeding tubes to be removed. After Schiavo died on March 31, 2005, Congress all but stopped trying to pass a law banning aid in dying.
2007: Mad Pride “Orgulho Louco” starts in Brazil. The Mad Pride movement events often include music, poetry readings, film screenings, and street theatre, such as ‘bed push’ protests, which aim to raise awareness about the poor levels of choice of treatments and the widespread use of force in psychiatric hospitals. Recently, Orgulho Louco was part of the anti-asylum fight and was organized by the Bahian Anti-Asylum Collective (CBLA), which involves mental health professionals, family members and users of CAPS (Psychosocial Care Centers). Noted by the 2017 the motto “For the end of psychiatric hospitals! Taking care in freedom is possible”. Resulting from the current conjuncture of coup and setbacks, where there is a movement of elitist sectors that defend the maintenance of Psychiatric Hospitals, based on corporatist interests, and opposing Law 10.216, which provides for the protection, rights of people with mental disorders and substitute services.

2008: ADA Amendments Act. The Americans with Disabilities Act Amendments Act (ADAAA) was signed into law and became effective on January 1, 2009. The ADAAA made a number of significant changes to the definition of “disability.” The changes in the definition of disability in the ADAAA apply to all titles of the ADA, including Title I (employment practices of private employers with 15 or more employees, state and local governments, employment agencies, labor unions, agents of the employer and joint management labor committees); Title II (programs and activities of state and local government entities); and Title III (private entities that are considered places of public accommodation).

2009: Autistic Pride “Orgulho Autista” starts in Brazil. Autistic pride demonstrations and events have been held on June 18th in Brasilia. The day is “a celebration of neurodiversity of individuals on the autism spectrum”. Similarly, the Autistic Brazil Pride Movement (MOAB), a non-profit organization since 2005. “Our main objective is to seek to improve the quality of life for people diagnosed with autism and for their families. For this, we have developed a series of actions, projects and programs. Among others, within the scope of legislative power, MOAB is directly responsible for drafting federal law 12,764 /12 (Berenice Piana Law) and district law 4,568 / 11 (Fernando Cotta Law), which seek to create and execute of public policies for this specific community of people who were abandoned by the Brazilian State for many years.

2008: GINA (Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act). The Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act (GINA) is a federal law that protects individuals from genetic discrimination in health insurance and employment. Genetic discrimination is the misuse of genetic information. The genetic information protected by the law includes family health history, the results of genetic tests, the use of genetic counseling and other genetic services, and participation in genetic research. With GINA’s protections, you can feel more comfortable talking about family health history with your family and healthcare providers. You may choose to use genetic testing and other services to learn about health risks without fear of genetic discrimination. It is also against the law for an employer to request, require, or purchase the genetic information of a potential or current employee, or his or her family members. There are a few exceptions to when an employer can legally have your genetic information. If an employer does have the genetic information of an employee, the employer must keep it confidential and in a separate medical file.

2010: The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA or ACA) Signed into Law. The Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act (PPACA), often shortened to the Affordable Care Act (ACA) or nicknamed Obamacare, is a United States federal statute enacted by the 111th United States Congress and signed into law by President Barack Obama on March 23. The law has 3 primary goals: 1) Make affordable health insurance available to more people. The law provides consumers with subsidies (“premium tax credits”) that lower costs for households with incomes between 100% and 400% of the federal poverty level. 2) Expand the Medicaid program to cover all adults with income below 138% of the federal poverty level. (Not all states have expanded their Medicaid programs.) 3) Support innovative medical care delivery methods designed to lower the costs of health care generally.
2012: First Disability Cultural Center created in the U.S. “The DCC is the first of its kind in the U.S. to be housed within a student affairs organization, rather than a disability services office. It is also the first to be run by a full-time professional staff member. Syracuse University Disability Cultural Center’s purpose aligns with other cultural centers on campus.”

2013: International Symposium on Disability Studies is held in São Paulo. “Held in June 2013, the conference was called Conflitos, Direitos e Diversidade - I Simpósio Internacional de Estudos sobre a Deficiência, which translates to The First International Symposium on Disability Studies: Conflicts, Rights, and Diversity (http://diversitas.fflch.usp.br/sied). This was the first international disability studies symposium organized by the Office of State of São Paulo, under the direction of Dr. Linamara Rizzo Battistella, Secretary of State for the Rights of Persons with Disabilities.” (Disability Studies Quarterly)

2016: India passes the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill. The evolution of the disability rights movement (DRM) in India spans over four decades. Voices began demanding the rights of people suffering from disabilities in the early 1970s...After a series of petitions and protests, the government passed the Persons With Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of Rights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 (or PWD Act), which reserved three percent of government posts for those in the PWD category....the United Nations adopted the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in 2006. India signed and ratified this convention in 2007. By 2012, the Union Government of India drafted a disability bill, and after amendments in the original draft, the bill was tabled in the parliament the very next year. After a wait of over three years, the Rights of Persons with Disabilities Bill was passed by both houses of parliament just last week. More than 26 million disabled persons in India are waiting anxiously to see the bill officially become a law.

2018: The Disability Justice Network of Ontario is founded. “The Disability Justice Network of Ontario is an initiative led by young Black women and women of colour with disabilities. We are working towards a world where people with disabilities are free to be. We believe that people with disabilities are more than just economic units of labour or potential customers. Our starting point is access to services, education, and employment, but we aim to work beyond to emphasize access to shelter, food, and community.”

2018: Egypt names it the “Year of Disabled People”. Egypt dubbed 2018 the "Year of Disabled People," and, in February 2018, President Abdel Fattah al-Sisi's government issued a bill on the rights of persons with disabilities. The law replaces a 1975 law dealing with rehabilitation and employment that set a quota of jobs for people with disabilities at 5 percent for public sector institutions with a staff of 50 or more. Unlike that law, which failed to address other issues (to the extent it was often pejoratively dubbed the "5 percent law," the new legislation is more comprehensive, covering not only employment, but also health, education, work and political participation.

2018: Disability Cultural Center founded at University of Arizona. One of very few in the nation, UA's disability cultural center (DCC) is a space for students, faculty and staff to explore and celebrate disability identity, culture and community. DCC offers a variety of events and programming that promote an authentic and intersectional perspective on disability.