

Dialogue 144

Nothing About Us Without Us:
A Disability Studies Perspective on
Research Ethics

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The nation's research mission is driven in large part by investigators who study what interests them. This is not in itself a problem. But when researchers take an interest in a specific population, it is increasingly clear and increasingly agreed that members of the population should help drive the research agenda. This is arguably as important for the disability community as any other. "Nothing about us without us" is no mere slogan, but a guide to ethically optimized research on disability.

Dr. Linton is one of America's foremost experts on disability and the arts. She works with a diverse range of cultural organizations – theatre companies, film and television producers, museums, non-profit arts companies, universities, and other groups across the country – to improve and increase the way disability is represented and depicted in all art forms. Her memoir, *My Body Politic*, was published in 2006 to critical acclaim. Her first book, *Claiming Disability: Knowledge and Identity*, is widely used in university courses in women's studies, disability studies, and cultural studies.

In special collaboration with the School of Education and Human Development's Diversity Committee, the Mailman Center for Child Development and UM's Disability Studies Group.

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