

De-colonizing Disability Theory I – Crippling Development  
September 19-21, 2013  
Prague

**Workshop:**

**Alexandra König, Elisabeth Mundt, Tina Fuchslbauer, Theresa Gerhards, Pia Klüver, Aurelia Wolf**  
**Under xxx Eyes: Assisting Desire and the Dis/abled Body**

Robert McRuer has pointed out the connection between the norm of heterosexuality and able-bodiedness, a cultural and institutionalized ideal which forms bodies and desires, manifesting in norms of sexuality as unattainable illusions.

The more subtle and unquestioned norms remain, the more effectively they become as decisive mechanisms of power due to their invisibility and interplay. With this in mind, it becomes necessary to develop tools of analysis to critically address and dismantle the violence inflicted on subjects in this web of power.

This workshop aims at doing so by drawing on the case of sexual assistance. The discourses on sexual assistance mostly address it as a form of activity or service meeting the sexuality or sexual needs of people with disability. Yet, a clear-cut-definition of sexual assistance seems inappropriate since sexual assistance is understood in very different ways and has been subject to significant controversy. Based on group discussions on interview extracts with sexual assistants, the workshop will critically engage with the question of what we can learn from these phenomena, such as underlying norms, power mechanisms and hierarchies which play an important role for the construction of body and desire. Drawing on Donna Haraway, our aim is to use situated knowledge, meaning ways of viewing the world according to experiences and beliefs. We will approach the material by "wearing" different "analytical glasses" to look through, in order to render visible the multiple power mechanisms and how they intertwine. Instead of concentrating on differences which can be produced through various perspectives, our goal is to show the potential of each perspective to gain productive critique.