

I don't know about you,
but I dislike being stuck in traffic.
Even just moving along in it.
There are various kinds of traffic.
Foot or wheel traffic.
Vehicular. Air. Sea.
Even horseback and other animals.
Part of a nonstop global mass movement of people.
Here is a cut-out of planet Earth.
Try to picture how as this blue ball rotates daily
all the nonstop traffic
not only on each continent,
but from one to the other,
and on the oceans as well.
So what is being transported from place to place
simultaneously?
People, goods, culture,
disease, languages,
data, plants, animals, and capital.
This is all known as globalization.
Capitalism is probably the main driving force
behind why today many businesses and organizations
operate internationally.
Our world is interconnected,
moving faster than humanity has ever experienced.
What does talking about globalization or capitalism
have to do with something like ableism?
It's important to ask and to assess
all that capitalism demands of the human body
and to explore whether all human body-minds
can adhere to those demands.
The short answer is no.

I'm Artie Mack and over these next five videos
we'll be thinking about ableism
and the kind of world we live in, where it thrives.
The more capital-oriented and labor intensive
our society becomes,
the more it demands monoculture
and a way to remove people
whose body-minds aren't compliant.
Let's get another image of globalization
and see how much our society
is based on movement and transportation.
Sometimes I imagine street traffic
as a Giant Conveyor Belt.
Many of us are moving along on it
from one place to another to fulfil a capitalist demand.
The traditional 9 to 5 routine,
however it may vary in actual hours.
Expanding that concept, I think of factory lines
and how people seem to always be on the move.
Assuming they have the able-bodied privilege to move.
And oftentimes with a sense of urgency.
In her essays,
"Wartalk and The Foreigner's Home,"
Toni Morrison describes globalization
as the voluntary and involuntary *"distribution
of workers, intellectuals,
refugees, traders, immigrants,
armies crossing oceans, continents,
through custom offices, via hidden routes,
speaking multiple languages of commerce,"*
comparing globalization
to Manifest Destiny.

Morrison warned of globalization
being a threat to our humanity
as internationalism can appear to mean one world,
one people in a good way,
but it has many consequences.
Monoculture being one of them,
which we'll dive into later on.
Unity under capitalism is not possible.
We must look at what capitalism requires,
e.g. that all human body-minds function similarly.
Capitalism cares about profit,
not what's right or wrong.
Profit. Is this why
we're a labor-driven global society
and shame bodies
that don't or can't work?
Taking what I've described –
traffic and a giant conveyor belt around planet earth,
now we have ideas about globalization.
Fueled by capitalism.
This machine with metal gears and pipes
working in unison.
A giant factory line
represented by the continual movement of people
all around the world.
Now let's talk about people with disabilities.
What does capitalism require of human body-minds?
Can all of us be made into gears
that help the machine run
the way that it's designed by those in charge?
Can all human body-minds labor equally,
and do they all have the same accessible means

of transportation and movement?

Again, the answer is no.

When people are, metaphorically speaking,
labeled as a "misshapen gear" or,
realistically speaking, diagnosed as "defective"
and thus subject to all sorts of ridicule and oppression
because they don't fit within the machine
as a neurotypical, able bodied laborer,
and face obstacles
due to their disabled body- mind and/or neurodivergence,
I'd say that sounds a lot like ableism.
Which can feel like being stuck in traffic.