

We've come to understand ableism as discrimination against people with disabilities.

It's more than just cultural attitudes and prejudices.

It's systemic oppression and unfair wages.

It's inaccessibility and exclusion.

It's the devaluation of an individual or a group based on their disabled or neurodivergent status.

There are spectrums of disability as well as visible and non-visible disabilities.

Permanent disabilities and temporary ones.

Not to mention chronic pain and illnesses.

Testaments of the biodiversity and neurodivergence naturally occurring in all body-minds.

Therefore, why do many people have negative feelings toward disability, and how much of that is manufactured by capitalism's intent and purposes?

How does disability exist in opposition to working class ideas and myths?

And how do we stop calling people lazy if they're unable to work?

Remember the machine, the giant conveyor belt we talked about in the last video?

A machine can't rely on change and fluctuations that occur spontaneously in the human body.

These changes can include:

disability, health, alertness, mood, faulty senses, and bias.

Not only has this implemented the idea of a standard, abled body

and average height and weight,
but combined with Western standards
of beauty, gender binaries, and class,
it's starting to become clear that globalization
didn't exactly take off
with marginalized, disabled peoples in mind.
There's this feeling everyone has to be built the same
in order to be a part of working class society.
Again, that's monoculture.
One of the things emphasized by Sins Invalid,
a disability-justice based performance organization,
is the importance of building an intersectional framework
when tackling civil rights issues,
because you can't separate disability
from race, gender, and sexuality, to name a few.
"We can only truly understand ableism
by tracing its connections
to heteropatriarchy, white supremacy,
colonialism, and capitalism"
Sins Invalid - "Skin, Tooth, and Bone" .
Systems of oppression take on similarities
especially when they have a common goal:
making a profit,
and maintaining economic class
and the status quo,
meaning that our histories and social issues
are intertwined.
Capitalism requires the marginalization of bodies
in a class system
in order for the higher-ups to profit.
I'd like to talk about two terms
often put on disabled people of all backgrounds

and point out just how mechanical they are:

"high-functioning"

and "low-functioning."

A lot of disabled people
have spoken heavily on this subject.

In her book, *Demystifying Disability*,
disability rights advocate Emily Ladau claims:

"functioning labels promote the false idea
that there are standard abilities
that all people have,"

and she calls for an end to this divide
between disabled and non-disabled peoples
as well as within both groups,
because all human body-minds
function and communicate differently.

The dictionary definition of "functionality" is
"performing a specified task"
or "able to cope with everyday life."

I don't think it needs to be explained any further
why this label is harmful to use
toward disabled people or anyone.

But its use and prominence in the medical field
has to do with how we view human bodies
as working machines,
and that could be the consequence
of expansion and colonization.

Our ideas of "functionality"
are scary at times.

When our actions, legislature, allocating resources
are increasingly calculative and profit-oriented
versus coming from a place of humanitarianism,
what does that say about us?

And how does that impact
people with disabilities?