THE SOCIAL MODEL OF DISABILITY: EUROPE AND THE MAJORITY WORLD

Edited by
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The Disability Press

The Disability Press aims to provide an alternative outlet for work in the field of ‘disability studies’. It draws inspiration from the work of all those countless disabled individuals and their allies who have, over the years, struggled to place ‘disability’ on to the political agenda. The establishment of The Disability Press is a testament to the growing recognition of ‘disability’ as an equal opportunities and human rights issue within the social sciences and more widely in society.

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Colin Barnes and Geof Mercer
Acknowledgements

This is the third volume that we have edited based on contributions to a seminar series on ‘Implementing the Social Model of Disability: from Theory to Practice’ organised by the Centre for Disability Studies (CDS) at the University of Leeds. The first and second volumes, Implementing the Social Model of Disability: Theory and Research and Disability Policy and Practice: Applying the Social Model were published in 2004 by The Disability Press.

We wish to thank the Economic and Social Research Council for a grant to help with this series, and also to the participants and particularly those presenting papers at the fifth and sixth seminars on which this volume is based.

Once again, we want to record our special debt to Marie Ross for her expert support and skills in preparing the collection for publication and more specifically in producing the Index.
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The Social Model of Disability: Europe and the Majority World contains thirteen chapters on the application of social model inspired thinking outside of the British context. The contributors include established figures and newcomers to the field. They raise a range of important issues and concerns central to theorising and applying social model insights in 'developed' and 'majority world' countries. The collection explores the relevance of debates within disability studies about the form and character of social exclusion of disabled people and associated policy responses. This book will be of particular interest to academics, researchers, disabled people, professionals and policy makers with an interest in disability issues and the on-going struggle for a more equitable and just society.