

# In//Visible, Un//Able: Japanese and American Perceptions of Individuals With Both Visible and Invisible Disabilities

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October 30, 2019

Pre Capstone Midterm Presentation

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# Outline

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- 1 definition of in/visible disability
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# Title and Research Questions

Title: In//visible, Un//able: Japanese and American Perceptions of Individuals with both Visible and Invisible Disabilities

Research Question 1: What are Japanese and American college students' perceptions of the capabilities of those with visible disabilities?

Research Question 2: How does representation of disabled people in the media contribute to perceptions of their ability in America and Japan?

# Significance of the study

Laura:

- Holds mental health awareness with great importance due to own official diagnosis with severe depression.
- Created a public service announcement about mental health awareness in a Commercial class taken while studying abroad at NUFS.
- Through this research I want to find if a definite stigma exists against those who wish to improve their invisible disabilities.

Hannah:

- Has invisible disabilities, had an aunt with cerebral palsy who defied expectations, mom has physical disability.
- Works with OC3 on social justice and social issues, passionate about disability empowerment.
- I know that students on campus struggle with preconceived ideas of their ability through work with OC3, SDR, and SADE
- I want to see how abled people view disabled people so I can break these stereotypes and preconceptions in the work I do.

# Definition of In/Visible Disabilities

- Visible - “the term disability is often used to describe a physical or mental challenge”

(The Visible Invisible Disability. 2017)

- Invisible - “an invisible disability is a physical, mental or neurological condition that is not visible from the outside, yet can limit or challenge a person’s movements, senses, or activities”

(How do you define invisible disability?)

# Demographics

- Employment rates
  - “Employment rates among people with disabilities are very, very low: Only 40 percent of adults with disabilities in their prime working years (ages 25-54) have a job, compared to 79 percent of all prime-age adults.”
  - “Among adults with disabilities, Hispanics exhibit the widest range of employment outcomes.”
  - “Adults with a disability and a college degree have an employment rate (59 percent) that is 10 percentage points lower than all adults with a high school diploma or less (69 percent) and 27 percentage points lower than all adults with a college degree (86 percent).”

(Ross & Bateman)

# Demographics cont.

- Instances
  - “ダウン症の出生頻度は1,000人に約1人の割合です。日本では1年間に約1,100人生まれているといわれています。” (LITALICOジュニア)
  - In Japan, about 1 out of 1000 babies born have Down Syndrome. About 1,100 babies are born with Down Syndrome each year in Japan.
- Each year, about 6,000 babies are born with Down syndrome, which is about 1 in every 700 babies born in the United States.  
(CDC)
- Historically, people with severe mental disabilities were kept in sanitariums segregated from the world. This didn't begin to change until the 1960's and 1970's.

(University of Florida)

# Interactions

- "In Japanese society, the social expectation is that supervision or caring for people who have disorders associated with loss of mental and behavioural self-control will be borne by the patients or their families. Thus mental illness is not viewed as something that requires professional treatment."  
"Although treatments are available for many mental-health disorders, almost two thirds of sufferers never seek help from a health professional."

(Desapriya &

Nobutada)

- Historically, people with severe mental disabilities were kept in sanitariums segregated from the world. This didn't begin to change until the 1960's and 1970's.

(University of Florida)



# Instances of Discrimination

- Disability discrimination means treating individuals differently in employment because of their disability, perceived disability, or association with a disabled person.
- Direct: A restaurant allows a family with a child who has cerebral palsy to eat in their outdoor seating area but not in their family room. The family with the disabled child is not given the same choices that other families have.
- Indirect: A local authority, such as a Health Department, makes a flyer about its services for residents. In order to save money it does not produce an easy-to-read version of the flyer. This makes it more difficult for someone with a learning disability to access the information and services which could amount to indirect discrimination. (workplacefairness.org)
- Poor treatment of service animals, discrimination towards those who have service animals. Ex: Delta Airlines “no longer recognizing” service dogs of “bully breeds”. (Animal Farm Foundation)

# Instances of Discrimination (cont.)

- ““筆者も、精神障害者の処遇に関する法制度の変遷は、一般社会人を精神障害者から守ること、いわゆる治安優先の歴史であったと思われる。”
- “1987年、精神保健法改正では、精神障害者の人権の尊重や、精神障害者の社会復帰促進が大きな変革であったが、現在も33万人の精神障害者が入院しており、閉鎖病棟で処遇されている。”

(藤野 2003)

# Advocacy

- There are many advocacy groups to support people with disabilities. Groups can be found for the following topics and communities.
  - General Advocacy
  - Education & Technology
  - Employment & Business
  - Family & Social Services
  - Harassment & Hate Crimes
  - Housing & Long-Term Care
  - Legal & Civil Rights
  - Media & Writing
  - Sports
  - Travel & Transportation
  - Addiction & Mental Health
  - Blindness & Vision Loss
  - Deafness & Hearing Loss
  - Dwarfism, Little People
  - Intellectual & Developmental Disabilities
  - Learning Disabilities
  - Neurological Disorders

“Examples of activism can be found among various disability groups dating back to the 1800s. Organizations by and for people with disabilities have existed since the 1800s. However, they exploded in popularity in the 1900s.”

(National Park Service)

(National Center on Disability and Journalism)

# Advocacy (cont.)

- “谷中らの言う共生を基盤にする生活モデルによる「ごく当たり前の生活」の保障を目指して「生活のしづらさ」を意識した精神障害者への支援活動を展開して行った。”
- “中には 障害児の歯科治療センターの開設へと至ったソーシャルアクションの展開もあったことが明らかになった。”

(加納 光子)

# Research Method

<https://docs.google.com/document/d/15h261R696YynOYTScH25dBnIokmxsWtPsA4yNqJ9KRs/edit>

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