

Bringing in disability to bring back class: &

Understanding media and technology for +
contemporary times and people +

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Unlike class, **disability** cannot be brought “back” to media studies

Selectively included in how scholars understand media and tech (and class)

Bring in disability to bring studies of media and class **forward**

what +

1. Disability is part of the + full spectrum of human variation &



why +

2. Disability shapes and is shaped by
other spectrum with which it intersects: +
socioeconomic spectrum and media spectrum &

**This tax relief would help millions
of families, as Hillary works to
fulfill the promise of the
Americans with Disabilities Act.**



hillaryclinton.com/mobileapp

#CripTheVote

Our Voices, Our Vote

**Twitter chats before Presidential
debates, on disability issues and
strategies for disabled voters.**

why +

Key social tensions in media and class (via disability) &

- Infrastructure—Precarity and stability
 - Class fluidity
- Institutions—Connection and disconnection +
 - Class bias
- Narratives—Fact and fiction
 - Class identity

how +

While disability cannot be brought “back” to study media and class, it can be **brought forward** &

MINNIE DRIVER

SPEECHLESS

a new comedy SEPT 21
WEDNESDAYS 8:30|7:30c



Conclusions &

- Media: infrastructure, institutions, narratives
- Class: fluidity, bias, and identity
- How much do we really know about class and media dynamics **without** accounting for disability (all as spectrums)?
- Role of disability (and ability) in media/class discourses of **citizenship** and **personhood**?
- Beyond medical/biological (health comm)—social, cultural, economic, and political too +

Giving Voice: & Mobile Communication, Disability, and Inequality

(MIT Press, Spring 2017) +

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