

Negotiated Project Proposal – MAI 170



PT

(Circle above as appropriate)

Name **Ella Tiller-Collins**

Date **23.5.22**

Practice Project title

Describe your project/area of inquiry (maximum of ten words)

Disability within storytelling / Overlooked areas of disability.

Practice Project Aims

Please elaborate on the above describing the area of interest you will be exploring, stating what the project sets out to achieve, and listing your aims

As with my other proposals, my project is carrying on the fictional short story/novella I have been writing throughout the year. This term I want to reach a good stopping point within the story/text itself and then focus on layout, illustrations within the text and formatting. I'm also looking to get some copies printed for the show if I can.

Critical Publication is spring-boarding off of my presentation, exploring disability within storytelling as well as disability in the public eye, linking it to concepts such as Jung's 'Shadow' and other stories examined through the lens of disability.

Rationale

Please describe your broader reasons for choosing to undertake this inquiry, indicating its context as authorial illustration

Exploring disability in ways not often seen or talked about. With my project, having a disabled protagonist in a fantasy setting as well as a nonbinary protagonist, mixing my interests of indie zines and fantasy novels to try and blend the two.

With my Critical Publication, I am looking into disability in a wider societal context as well as within storytelling. As well as this, disability is a personal area of interest for me due to my own disability.

Indicative bibliography and related sources

Indicate the main reference sources: books, film, web, exhibition, interview, etc

Project: Varjak Paw (S.F Said), Earthsea Cycle (Ursula K. Le Guin), On A Sunbeam (Tillie Walden), Ismyre Series (B.Mure), Maresi (Maria Turtchaninoff), Left Hand of Darkness

**(Ursula K. Le Guin), Princess Mononoke (Studio Ghibli), Tekkonkinkreet (STUDIO 4°C),
Hyper Light Drifter (Heart Machine)**

Additional comments

Please indicate, where appropriate, any particular aspects of your project which staff need to be aware of such as requirements for gaining permission, socially sensitive subject material, etc

Might need more help/advice with Indesign and getting books ready for printing.

300 word synopsis for Extended Critical Essay

Indicate the focus of your essay investigation and how it relates to the broader practice investigation. Please include outline indicative bibliography and sources.

‘Complex emotions towards ones own disability, such as anger, guilt and resentment, are often glossed over or hidden from view within the public eyes perspective of disability. This gives arise to terms such as ‘inspiration porn’, coined by Australian disability activist Stella Young. In short, it is a term to describe media portrayals of disability that often features a reliance on sentimentality, pity, uplifting moral messages and are catered to non-disabled consumers. It effectively objectifies and commodifies those with disabilities. The ‘inspiration’ of inspiration porn comes solely from the disability itself, and includes nothing of the individual with the disability beyond their status as someone who *has* a disability.

“Reducing a human being- and a stranger, at that- to “inspiring” or “brave” or any of those labels is problematic, because you’re filling in qualities that may or may not be true in order to make yourself feel better. It’s using disabled people as tools for your own betterment.” (Cara Liebowitz, cited in Mitchell, 2017.)

The other fallacy with this view of disability is that if a disabled person does not fall into this perfect category of ‘disabled’, then they are shunned even further in the eyes of society and the non-disabled. It is a rather sanitised, defanged view of disability

So what are examples of stories surrounding disability which don’t fall into this? That is what I want to explore further in my Critical Publication, as well as examining disability as an archetypal storytelling device and lens to view stories within its own right, as well as the strength of stories told by those who are disabled themselves.’

Working Bibliography:

Middendorp, H., Lumley, M.A., Moerbeek, M., Jacobs, J.W.G., Bijlsma, J.W.J. and Geenen, R. (2010). Effects of anger and anger regulation styles on pain in daily life of women with fibromyalgia: A diary study. *European Journal of Pain*, [online] 14(2), pp.176–182. doi:10.1016/j.ejpain.2009.03.007.

IN-TEXT CITATION: (Middendorp et al., 2010)

Mitchell, K. (2017). *On Inspiration Porn*. [online] HuffPost. Available at: https://www.huffpost.com/entry/on-inspiration-porn_b_596cedd0e4b05561da5a595e.

IN-TEXT CITATION: (Mitchell, 2017)

Okifuji, A., C Turk, D. and L Curran, S. (1999). Anger in chronic pain: Investigations of anger targets and intensity. *Journal of Psychosomatic Research*, [online] Volume 47(1), pp.1–12. Available at: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/abs/pii/S0022399999000069?via%3Dihub>.

IN-TEXT CITATION: (Okifuji, C Turk and L Curran, 1999)

Priestman, C. (2016). *Hyper Light Drifter – how heart disease inspired one of 2016's great games*. [online] the Guardian. Available at: <https://www.theguardian.com/technology/2016/jun/02/hyper-light-drifter-heart-disease-inspired-alex-preston>.

IN-TEXT CITATION: (Priestman, 2016)

Pulrang, A. (2019). *How To Avoid 'Inspiration Porn'*. [online] Forbes. Available at: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewpulrang/2019/11/29/how-to-avoid-inspiration-porn/> [Accessed 14 May 2022].

IN-TEXT CITATION: (Pulrang, 2019)

Pulrang, A. (2020). *Disabled People's Feelings About Cures Are More Complex Than You May Think*. [online] Forbes. Available at: <https://www.forbes.com/sites/andrewpulrang/2020/09/07/disabled-peoples-feelings-about-cures-are-more-complex-than-you-may-think/> [Accessed 17 May 2022].

IN-TEXT CITATION: (Pulrang, 2020)

Signature/s

Student



Staff

Date

23.5.22

Date