

I think making for me, is more about communicating in the most clear way or in multiple ways maybe Information, knowledge, and ideas. Disability makers are really interesting um like an interesting phenomenon because so much of the time they're making in and of itself disrupts the traditional definitions of who we think makes and and how making should go about. Part of the development of the podcast is so that students who want to learn in a different modality have access to the knowledge that disability, madness, and fat studies can bring.

Technology for me has always been essential. Like as someone who has a learning disability, access to education has always involved technology and part of EdTech and part of the development of EdTech has is now podcasting. And I love podcasting, I was listening to a podcast on the way down here. I listen to podcasts every night when I go for a walk. I listen to a podcast sometimes in the shower. I mean, like it is such a great medium and the thing is that there's a podcast for every single thing and the more niche you are the more attracted to your podcast I am. I feel like if you do something that you like and that is for you it hopefully will find people who are similarly interested. You know I think like my podcast fills a gap because there aren't really a lot of disability uh studies podcast in Canada it's not really a thing. There's there's disability podcasts in the US, there's disability podcasts in other parts of the world but there isn't one who are who's interviewing a lot of disabled scholars in Canada. You know I interview PhD candidates and I interview people in the community and younger artists and I think that's really exciting and something that isn't another podcast topic. In the first episode of my podcast, there's a part that goes oh we'll just cut that out but it's not cut out it's in the episode and I kind of refuse to take it out now that I know that it's there just because I think it's like like a capsule of like this thing I did in the third floor of my sister's bedroom while I was in quarantine for two weeks.

One episode in particular really stands out to me, and that was one with Dr. Jihan Abbas. Me and Jihan have a lot of things in common, we're both disabled people, we both have PhDs, and we both have learning disabilities. And so those intersections were uh unique! Learning that she also learned to read by dissecting Archie comics, was like this really awesome like revelation to me and I think that's why a lot of people come and listen to the podcast in the first place right it's like there's a shared commonality in some of the experiences that people are sharing. We're talking about their academic crush, we're talking about their what they're currently reading, and we're talking about the famous person they met. Those stories they reveal the person behind the research, these really kind of revealing conversations about what people do outside of their jobs or their careers. It's a profound thing when you or through somebody else as you're guiding them can construct something or make something that allows you a certain level of freedom or allows you to contribute to something and I think both the podcast definitely does that, allows me to contribute to my community that's given back so much to me in terms of knowledge and education but I think I rely also on like the kind of co-development of the podcast right in order to actually see it to its end.

One of the most significant barriers at the beginning was like a clear demonstration of like my learning disability because uh to to get an Apple podcast like uh certificate or like to get on Apple podcast, you had to upload an image um kind of like the image that's going to appear

right on the on the store website and the image uh the instructions were either like, 1400 by 1400 or 2300 by 2300 and I thought oh it could be a range between 1400 and 2300 and that is not what they were saying the word or was in the middle and so if it's not exactly this or that it won't upload, and that took me a day and a half to figure out. So I feel like sometimes the making is not the thing that's hard, it's like the communicating around it, the the messaging, the getting it to the audience, the the various kind of bureaucratic like issues that you have to come across. Building access into the work was always going to be a part of it um but it's very hard um it's very hard, it's very expensive, it's a challenge but it's absolutely doable. I feel like you can't have a podcast on disability like and mental health uh without thinking about those people who you want to listen to, like those people who you imagine using it being like disabled themselves and being mad at themselves and needing those access points.

The medium or platform that I'm most interested in exploring would probably be TikTok. I just think it's the most exciting area for makers, make you laugh and cry with you know a six second video or three minute video, it's it's fantastic. It would be so easy to for me to send students or like embed a TikTok in like a presentation or in a PowerPoint, instead of having like a 30-minute conversation. It really is a maker space.

If you are a young disabled person who wants to get into the podcast, pick a niche topic. Pick a topic that you are passionate about and not even passionate, like interested in talking about it week after week and pick something that isn't already out there. If you can save up a little bit to kind of um be able to uh you know get a domain or things like that, do it. If you can't, there are a million free ways to do it. Use your phone, you don't need tech. Use zoom to record, if especially if your people are in different parts of the world. Um zoom can also now even transcribe the entire uh conversation so even that work of making it accessible can be done for you. Uh and hit up other disabled people who are doing uh podcasts.