

Courtney Wade:

Hello, my name is Courtney Wade. I use she and they pronouns. I'm a white femme-appearing person with short brown hair, a silver necklace, a black-and-white-striped sort of blazer, and a cream blurred-out wall behind me.

I'm the founder of the Dis/ability, Autistic, Mad, & Neuroqueer Solidarity Project, the Critical DAMN Studies Lab, and I'm a third year PhD student in applied social and community psychology.

So, I'm here to tell you about what the Critical DAMN Studies Database is. The Critical DAMN Studies or Critical Dis/ability, Autistic, Mad, and Neuroqueer Studies Database is a Google Sheets document that currently lists about 400 articles at the intersections of critical disability studies, critical autistic studies, mad studies, neurodiversity studies, and many additional critical studies fields.

As a nonbinary, queer, multiply disabled, autistic, mad, and neuroqueer person, with a special interest in critical studies, I love reading everything I can get my hands on. And I was interested in the intersections of critical disability, critical autistic, mad, and neurodiversity studies. However, these fields, as most everything in academia, remain largely siloed. While there are a handful of articles that compare and contrast these fields, there's not been a collective push towards a solidarity focused approach. So I hope to create a sort of repository of articles from all of these fields, so that extradisciplinary scholarship would be more accessible and it could be a concrete strategy to increase transdisciplinary critical and anti-oppressive work.

So, about the process, how did I go about starting it? It all began in a very neuroqueer way with three hyperfocuses down the Google Scholar rabbit hole. And Google Scholar would even cut me off for 24 hour periods, because I downloaded too many articles and it's said that I was a robot. And I'm pretty sure critical autistic studies would have something to say about that.

But after taking Philosophy of Disability at George Washington University in 2012, I started dumping everything I was reading on my hard drive. But after about five years of that I started to organize everything into Google Drive folders by field. Then subfield, then topic within subfield, and recently into professions, such as higher ed, healthcare, and law.

Then, my amazing research assistants, Sarah Graham and Jordan Birkner, took that mess and created the spreadsheet after I gave them a vague vision of what has become this live interactive Google Sheet.

I continue to add more recent articles, but I think my RAs desperately needed a break for a while.

So I will share the Google sheet here. Okay, I will share this. Okay. So basically the Google Sheet looks like this. It breaks down the—basically the citation information of the article, so that, in whatever style you need to cite it, the information is there and then there's a link to the web page where the article is. And so, when I said that I broke it down into the field, subfield, topic, those are what these titles are. So when my RAs put this in here they put an “X” on like which sections it fit into. So if you sort by disability studies, if you sort by fat positive studies or critical race theory, quant, crit, etc, then you'll get all the articles that deal with that particular topic. And they also like, look to the abstract, to see what else they could check off and sort of just using my title so it's a little more in depth. But there are definitely a good amount of articles in there from a variety of journals.

Yeah so that's what that sort of looks like. Some more of the topics are neurodiversity studies, transformative pedagogy, that's one of my favorite ones. Different methodological focused articles, eugenics and genetics, popular in the autistic literature. And, let's see, Black feminism, lots in there. So that's sort of an overview of what it looks like now.

So relatedly, the DAMN Solidarity Project, which was actually an evolution of the Critical DAMN Studies Lab after I became more politicized within

disability justice and solidarity, transformative justice, and abolitionist movements. So that also has an infodump with topics around disability justice, disability solidarity, access-centered resources, and neuroqueer theory, I think a couple more. And so the infodump is more focused on non-academic resources like blogs and podcasts and YouTube videos, and things that are not dyslexic nightmares aka journal articles. Also my RA Sarah Graham just graduated and started a database of literature on neurodiversity within the [indistinct] community, so that's a work in progress as well.

So who do you think will use this and how do you think they'll use it? My main goal in sharing this database is that I just really want everyone to have this information. Infodumping is my love language, and I feel passionately about the epistemic justice and access pieces of it as well.

So the next step I am hoping to take is reaching out to the authors within the database to ask if they will share their article for free, if someone emails them or something more efficient, but similar that doesn't add undue labor. And if they are open to collaboration within the spirit of this database. So in that way, I'm hoping that those who are and are not connected to university resources will be able to use this database to further their critical scholarship, activism, general thirst for knowledge.

And, in my dream world, the database and the infodump would be combined. So there'll be a breakdown by type of media, so it's easy to have multimodal syllabi or community resources. And there wouldn't be this university/community access divide. And again, this would increase opportunity for collaboration, maybe even funding within the solidarity economy and just transition frameworks. I'm just dreaming here.

And as far as how I think people will use it? What comes to mind is Christen A. Smith's Cite Black Women campaign. @citeblackwomen, #CiteBlackWomen, #CiteBlackWomenSunday, then in the transcript there's a link to the Cite Black Women website. So the campaign is defined on the website as a campaign to push people to engage in a radical praxis of

citation that acknowledges and honors black women's transnational intellectual production. So, as is reflected in Cite Black Women's five principles, I think that it would be easy, especially for white, cis, heterosexual, able-bodied, able-minded, seeing, hearing, speaking, neurotypical, and or settler scholars, including myself, to think that citing is enough. And while it is imperative, it does not absolve us of the need or the privilege of collaborating from the ground up with the communities whose theories we are engaging.

So I'm hoping it catalyzes this radical ethic, and the lineage of Angela Davis of grasping at the root. Where we can, in solidarity, address disciplinary routes that currently exist within those systems of oppression, such as white supremacy, colonialism, neoliberalism, and create community-accountable scholarship, a la [name indistinct]].

The Google Sheet will be housed on the DAMN Solidarity Project's website and open to additional contributions. Again, in a dream world with more time and human power. There could be programming attached to this effort, and we could have community accountability discussions around the scholarship and the impact of the work that we do.

Big thanks to Mia Mingus, Leah Lakshmi Piepzna-Samarasinha, [cannot make out this name] Prentis Hemphill, and Adrienne Maree Brown for everything they've taught me about transformative justice. And lastly, there's just—there's so many dissertations in there. And I would love to just acknowledge all of the amazing work coming out of these fields, from graduate students in some way, and raise up their work.

And just—to wrap it all together, my RAs and I are really proud of what we put together and are just looking forward to others being able to use and potentially add to the database, so thank you so much to the Remote Access Archive and the Critical Design Lab for all of your wonderful collaboration on this video and, you know, interest in this project. So I hope all y'all share interest in it as well, thank you.

