**Key Concerns for Critical Disability Studies**

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**Source:** [**The International Journal of Disability and Social Justice, November 2021, Vol. 1, No. 1 (November 2021), pp. 27-49.**](https://www.jstor.org/stable/10.13169/intljofdissocjus.1.1.0027)

**Plain English Summary**

**1. Introduction**

The International Journal of Disability and Social Justice is a new journal. We think that a new journal should think about those topics, worries and hopes that are important to disabled people, their families and allies. The pandemic has made things very difficult for disabled people. We have written this paper to encourage debate and to ask: what topics and conversations should researchers, activists and allies be having in these post-pandemic times?

**2. Summary of the research approach**

Our approach to writing this paper is a critical literature review. This means that we have read lots of publications in the field of disability studies and identified some themes or topics that we think are important, not only for researchers but also disabled people. This approach is sometimes called a desktop study: which conjures up an image of writers sitting at their desks, reading lots of books and writing their response. This is true - we have read lots and this has guided our writing - but our writing has also been guided by our experiences as disabled people, parents of disabled children, people with lived experience of disability and folk with disabled people in their families. So, our reading of these papers is always influenced by these experiences.

**3. Summary of the main points in the paper**

Thinking about the pandemic in our article, we describe a number of important topics: First, we believe that it is important to think about what we want as human beings and how we want these things to happen. Rather than just thinking about wanting what we don’t have, we need to think about how we connect to each other through our shared hopes and dreams. Second, we think we need to focus on our connections, relationships and alliances with others. Third, we think it is important to consider our connections with non-human others, including machines and animals. Finally, we think it is important to spend time explaining and understanding what we mean by social justice - which is what this journal is about.

**3. Summary of the main implications**

Our paper raises important questions relating to what humans want, human and non-human connections and the importance of being clear when we discuss social justice. We think that disabled people’s organisations are already engaging with these important themes: researchers need to make sure, therefore, that they are working closely with disabled people’s organisations.

**4. More information**

To find out more please visit this website <https://www.sheffield.ac.uk/ihuman>. Here you will find links to disability research as well as stories and news from disabled people and their families.