

The disability personal identity: review according to the social model

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The social and cultural perspective regarding persons with disabilities has substantially modified how personal identity in people with disabilities is considered (Finkelstein, 1980; Oliver, 1990; Shakespeare, Gillespie-Sells, Davies, 1996). This study proposes a reformulation of the construct regarding the personal identity of the person with a disability, from a perspective that includes the social model. This theoretical contribution is part of a wider project, in course of development at the University of Rome 'La Sapienza'. It aims at studying how environmental ('barriers'), cross-cultural, and educational factors influence the deep sexual identity development, and the body imagery of subjects with different physical and mental abilities. In this study, we will show how the healthy development of the sexuality of persons with disabilities is often hindered by several environmental and cultural 'barriers' in the daily life of a person with a disability.

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